

FREE 16-PAGE GUIDE TO THE NEW RUGBY SEASON

Rugby 97-98

HOW I ESCAPED VERSACE'S KILLER

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TOMORROW THE STEVE McMANAMAN COLUMN

IN YOUR BANK HOLIDAY TIMES

DEFINITIVE A-LEVEL LEAGUE TABLE OF 750 SCHOOLS

Cancer 'switch' in body turned on after 25 years of smoking

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

SMOKING for more than 25 years triggers a biological switch that leads to lung cancer, according to a new American study.

long-term ex-smokers who have not had a cigarette in years are still at high risk of getting lung cancer. The switch is a protein that appears on the surface of lung cells of people who have smoked 20 cigarettes a day or more for at least 25 years. The American researchers examined the cells lining the lungs of 37 people, some non-smokers and others smokers. The protein they identified, they

report in the *Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, is a receptor which acts rather like a socket into which another protein plugs itself. When this receptor is present, it captures circulating hormones which are involved in the development of the lungs in the womb, and which encourage cells to divide in the mature lung. The result is the formation of a new cluster of lung

cells, which themselves may continue to produce the same receptors in a self-sustaining cycle. This can lead to cancer. The team found that only 14.7 per cent of those who had smoked for less than 25 years produced the receptor, while 77 per cent of those who had smoked for more than 25 years did so. The discovery of the switch could possibly lead to better treatments,

Dr Siegfried said. "Knowing when this switch appears in someone's lung could help clinicians administer drugs to prevent the final transformation of these cells into cancer. "Better still, if we can turn off this switch, we might significantly reduce the odds that an ex-smoker will ever get lung cancer." The team also found that patients with chronic obstructive lung dis-

ease, usually caused by long-term smoking, respond more strongly to the presence of the switch. The lung cells proliferate more rapidly in such people than they do in people without congestive lung disease. "Our study is an important first step," Dr Siegfried said. "We are currently conducting a large-scale study of smokers and non-smokers to confirm these findings and expand our understanding of the

steps between smoking and the development of lung cancer, which is a very complex process." Cases rising: Smoking among pregnant women is increasing. Health Education Authority figures show. Almost half of women in the lower social classes smoke while pregnant, and over a fifth of those in the top social classes. In both cases the figures have risen significantly since 1992.

Prescott takes on two-car families

By Arthur Leathley, Transport Correspondent

JOHN PRESCOTT set out yesterday to make the two-car family a relic of the past with promises of a transport network so good that people would want to switch to trains and buses.

The Deputy Prime Minister announced a range of ideas to entice drivers from their cars — including road tolls and higher parking charges — but insisted that he did not intend simply to tax motorists off the roads.

"It is no good being tough with motorists and not offering them an alternative," he said. "Having two cars is a symptom of the failure of the public transport system, rather than a sign of prosperity. I want motorists to make a choice — to be able to say they don't need two cars because public transport is good."

However, in launching the consultation document that should lead to a transport White Paper next spring, Mr Prescott referred repeatedly to the potential benefits of motorway charges, raising fears among motorists that ministers were looking to increase rather than improve public services to curb car use.

Mr Prescott has already said that he expects to see a reduction in the culture of car dependency within five years and yesterday he promised "a truly integrated approach across the country and across

transport modes". But the Green Paper he published yesterday contained few detailed plans, concentrating instead on seeking opinion on a number of options, including:

- Charging motorists for using congested urban roads and motorways and for driving into London;
- Taxing company car spaces and raising public parking charges;
- A new rail authority combining the functions of the Rail Franchising Director and the Department of the Environment and Transport;
- Creating an orbital railway for central London using existing lines to link up with outlying passenger routes and freight lines, especially from east and south coast ports;
- A campaign to shift freight from roads to rail;
- Better connections between rail services and with bus networks, and closer links between stations and trunk roads to encourage park-and-ride schemes in cities;
- A return to regulation of buses with possible franchising of services;
- Improved road and rail links with airports;
- Greater use of inland waterways to transport freight from ports;
- Safer cycle routes to schools.

However, transport groups and business leaders were



Peter Mandelson, campaigning for a Scottish parliament, meets 9-month-old Robyn Peeney. Poster row, page 2

disarrayed by the absence of detailed plans in the document and by its failure to refer to the use of motorway taxes to improve public transport. The AA said that the time for talk was "fast running out" and the British Road Federation said that increased investment was needed over a sustained period. Freight organisations complained that insufficient attention had been paid to the problem of moving goods on the busiest roads. The Conservatives simply dis-

missed the document as "waffle". But Mr Prescott defended his approach, saying: "I am in Government and I have to talk to people. Do you want me to go blind into this?" He is, however, likely to face a struggle with Gordon Brown over the use of revenue from motorway and parking charges. Transport ministers say that money raised through extra taxes should be ploughed into public transport improvements. But Treasury

officials see the prospect of another £2 billion a year from motorway charges as a means of increasing spending in other areas. Although ministers have said that they have no set plans and that they will make no decisions until after the three-month consultation period, Mr Prescott did say that road pricing was seen as "an acceptable option". The comment, coupled with Mr Brown's promise of raising "green taxes", raised ex-

pectations that the White Paper and the Budget in March would lead to extensive motorway taxation, especially on the three million company cars. Such a policy would be likely to receive the backing of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution which will call next month for further deterrents such as sharp rises in petrol duties are needed to curb car use and improve air quality. Tips from abroad, page 5

Woman with CJD has been vegetarian for 12 years

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

A 24-YEAR-OLD woman who has been vegetarian for the past 12 years has the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease which scientists think is linked to "mad cow" disease. The case is highly unusual because the first clinical case of BSE was recorded in cattle only in 1986, a year after the woman, Clare Louise Tomkins, of Tonbridge, Kent, is said by her family to have stopped eating beef or any other kind of meat.

Roger Tomkins, Clare's father, said last night that he was told of the diagnosis a week and a half ago by Professor John Collinge, a BSE expert at St Mary's Hospital Medical School in Paddington, west London.

Mr Tomkins said: "My daughter is still alive, but Professor Collinge told me there was no doubt about the diagnosis, which was done by a biopsy of the tonsils. There seems little doubt that she must have caught CJD from mechanically recovered meat eaten before 1985."

Clare was a very strict vegetarian, though she did eat cheese and drink milk. She would not even eat biscuits if the packet showed that they contained gelatine or animal

fat, for example. We used to joke that she was a bit of a pain about it."

Robert Will, head of the CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh, said it was not impossible that people could have been exposed to BSE in meat products before 1985. "Although the first clinical case of BSE in cattle was not diagnosed until 1986, cattle incubating the disease could have been entering the food chain before then," he said.

Another possibility was that Miss Tomkins might unwittingly have eaten food that contained animal fat or mechanically recovered meat derived from cattle spinal cord or brain. "We simply do not know all the kinds of food such material might have gone into," Dr Will said.

Mr Tomkins said that Clare, who worked in the pet department of a garden centre near her home and was engaged to be married, first showed symptoms of the disease early last year.

Clare is now in an advanced stage of the disease, being fed through a tube directly into her stomach, and needs 24-hour home nursing. There have been 21 other confirmed cases of the new strain of CJD.

Blair help

Tony Blair has agreed to contact the Labour MP Robert Wareing, who claims that his suspension from the party for alleged links with Serbian war criminals has made him suicidal. Page 2

GCSE boy without television sets record with 12 starred As

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

A RECORD-BREAKING haul of a dozen top-grade GCSEs by a comprehensive school boy whose family has no television reopened the debate yesterday about the impact of the small screen on young minds.

Arthur Lovell's 12 A* grades are thought to represent the best performance at GCSE. He studied geography and music after hours at Whitstone Community School, in Shepton Mallet, Somerset, in addition to his regular subjects of mathematics, English language and literature, double science, history, statistics, art and design, French and German.

Debate was re-opened yesterday whether the absence of a television in the family home was the secret of success. Arthur and his five brothers and sisters are said to spend their evenings playing music and sport and doing their homework, although visits to watch neighbours' sets were not unknown.

Arthur, 16, who recently returned from a tour with one of his three orchestras, said he did not feel deprived. "I don't think I am missing much from



Lovell yesterday says TV is not that interesting

what little I do see at friends' homes because it is not that interesting. It means I can enjoy doing other things." The home is not completely without modern communications technology. The children have the use of a computer, bought for schoolwork but often used for games. Arthur's mother Kate, who is vice-chair of the school's governors, said: "We have never really wanted a television, and it has not been a big issue for the children. We once considered hiring one to watch Wimbledon, but found



"Ahh, now I haven't seen one of these for a very long time"

we would have to have it for the year." Rather than the absence of distractions, Arthur gave the credit to his teachers. "I could not have done it without them, especially the ones who stayed behind to help me with geography and music." Steve Chaudois, Whitstone's head teacher, said he had expected Arthur to achieve nine top grades, but he had been pleasantly surprised by his maximum score. "I am delighted for Arthur because he is a modest and likeable lad." The 106 pupils' results

included another eight A* grades by Matthew Dury, a friend of Arthur's and fellow musician. The school was in the bottom ten for GCSE in Somerset last year, but has improved its results in each of the past four years. Arthur is going on to Stroud College to take A levels in English literature, art and design, mathematics and physics. After that, he is aiming for university, but is yet to choose a subject. Arthur has spent much of his summer holiday painting a mural, which he will leave as his legacy to the school. Yesterday afternoon, before leaving for a celebration with his parents, he was hard at work preparing the wall of a corridor for his painting of typical school scenes.

Two grammar schools in Reading have recorded the best GCSE results for both boys and girls. The girls of Kendrick School topped the year's first GCSE league table, while Reading School recorded the best for boys. The Berkshire town eclipsed its Essex rivals in Chelmsford and Colchester.

Success stories, pages 8, 9
Leading article, page 19
Education, pages 35-39

Fumes hit hole in wall customers

By Stephen Farrell

STAFF and customers at a Halifax branch in central London were evacuated yesterday after being overcome by toxic fumes, believed to be CS gas, pouring from a hole in the wall cash machine.

Police suspect robbers may have hidden a pellet containing the gas as part of a plan to test security at the branch in Victoria Street, Westminster.

A dozen people were taken to hospital suffering from eye and throat irritation and breathing difficulties. The alarm was raised when a customer using the machine in the building's lobby at lunchtime was overcome. Staff who went to his aid were also affected.

Photograph, page 24

Accountancy exams

The results of the Institute of Chartered Accountants final July examination will be published in *The Times* tomorrow. Copies can be bought at the following stations after 10pm tonight: Charing Cross, King's Cross, Victoria, Leicester Square, Euston, Marble Arch, Liverpool Street, Waterloo and Embankment.

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Scottish Tories use 'Labour sleaze' row in anti-devolution poster

By Shirley English
and Nicholas Watt

THE Conservatives published an anti-devolution poster in Scotland yesterday featuring two Labour MPs suspended from the party.

The faces of a smiling Tommy Graham and a stern Mohammad Sarwar formed the letter "O" in the words "No No" beneath a slogan which asked "Could you really face a Scottish parliament?"

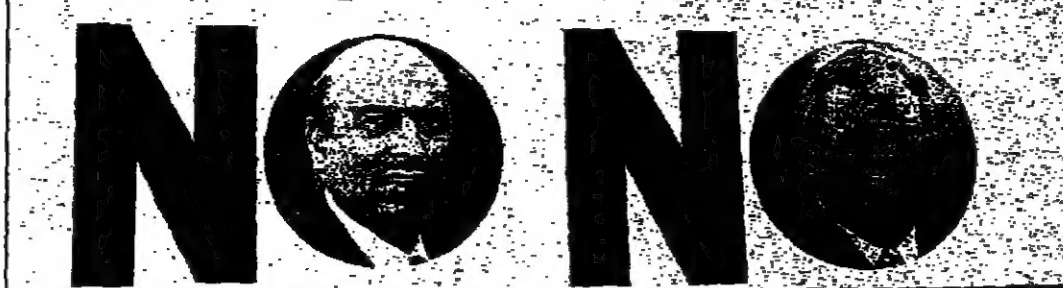
Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, was yesterday campaigning in Glasgow for a "Yes, Yes" vote in next month's referendum, in which voters will be asked if they want a Scottish parliament to be established and whether it should have tax-varying powers. Mr Mandelson con-

demned the poster as a "pathetic and desperate stunt".

However, Labour's difficulties continued to overshadow the devolution campaign in Scotland. Labour councillors in West Renfrewshire refused to take action against an ally of Mr Graham, Harry Revie, who was this week suspended by the Labour Party from holding office.

The council rejected a motion from Scottish Nationalists calling for Councillor Revie to be removed from his position as convener of the Property and Construction Services Committee. Mr Revie served as Mr Graham's election agent and is a former director of the now-defunct company FCB Security which is under police investigation. The full council

Can you really face a Scottish Parliament?



The poster unveiled by the Tories in the campaign for two No votes in next month's referendum.

meeting was the first since the suicide of Gordon McMaster, the Labour MP for Paisley South.

The Conservative poster sug-

gested that the party now believes that emphasising "sleaze" rather than the "tartan tax" is the way to win No votes. It also landed a blow

against the argument of "yes" campaigners that a parliament in Edinburgh is Scotland's birthright and that true patriots will vote "yes

yes" on September 12. Raymond Robertson, the Scottish Tory chairman, said: "The message we are trying to put forward today is - do you want to be controlled by a Scottish parliament that's Paisley writ large?"

The Tory-dominated anti-devolution Think Twice campaign, which has sought not to alienate Labour voters, yesterday backed the poster's sentiments. Brian Monteith, a spokesman, said: "While we have always believed we are winning on the second question on tax-varying powers, we think we are now beginning to win the argument on the first question on a Scottish parliament, too, and that is down to Paisley. Over the past two weeks, the campaign has raised £170,000 in

private donations from business and individuals.

Mr Mandelson shrugged off suggestions that the allegations of sleaze would damage Labour's "Yes Yes" campaign. But during a walkabout in the Glasgow suburb of Rutherglen he met staunch Labour supporters opposed to the Government's plans.

Thomas Collins, 53, who described himself as a life-long Labour voter, said that he would vote "Yes" to a Parliament in Edinburgh but "No" to tax-varying powers. Mr Mandelson said: "It is very important for the authority and credibility of the Scottish parliament to have that financial responsibility. It is not a ramp for higher taxes nor is it a slippery slope to separatism."

Blair answers cry for help by 'suicidal' MP

TONY BLAIR intervened yesterday to defuse the controversy over a Labour MP who claims that his suspension from the party made him suicidal.

The Prime Minister has agreed to contact Robert Wareing, whose written plea for help has gone unanswered by Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, for two months. Friends were so concerned about Mr Wareing's mental state that they sought help from the widow of a Tory MP who killed himself.

Mr Blair's involvement came as several Labour MPs described the case of the Liverpool West Derby MP as an example of the party's authoritarian approach and the heavyhandedness of whips.

Friends of Mr Wareing, 66, said he was driven to the edge of despair after he wrote in June asking Mr Brown for a meeting because "he felt sui-

Leader steps in

as treatment of

Wareing appalls

friends on Labour

benches, reports

Andrew Pierce

cid" after his suspension for alleged links with Serbian war criminals.

He still has not received a reply from Mr Brown, who investigated the behaviour of Labour MPs who were accused of mounting a whispering campaign against Gordon McMaster, the MP who committed suicide last month.

Many Labour MPs were appalled by the disclosure in *The Times* yesterday that Mr Wareing's despair had led

friends to put him in touch with Janet Heddie, the widow of John Heddie, Tory MP for Mid-Shropshire, who killed himself in 1989.

Labour MPs rallied to the support of Mr Wareing, who was disciplined after failing to register a £6,000 payment from Metta Trading and for not registering a shareholding in a company.

Tam Dalyell, the MP for Linlithgow, said yesterday: "When one is in the Westminster doghouse people need help. Bob Wareing is a Labour Party veteran. Bob Mellish, a former Chief Whip, took an East London view of people who were in trouble which was to call them 'bleeding idiots' and be nice to them."

Roger Stott, Labour MP for Wigan since 1970, said that the whips had let down Mr Wareing. He also accused them of neglecting Mr McMaster. "There should be an urgent meeting between the Chief Whip and the chairman of the Labour Party when the House resumes to identify problems that arise in MPs' personal lives," Mr Stott said.

"I was amazed to read about Bob Wareing being helped by the widow of a Tory MP. We should be helping our own."

Mrs Heddie told *The Times*: "If I am the safety net for Labour MPs it shows there is something drastically wrong with the system."

"I listened to Mr Wareing and was a friend. He had no one to turn to and no one to share his problems with. It is supposed to be the job of the whips' office to help MPs who feel this way. But I am not sure they care."

The Labour leadership stood by Mr Brown yesterday, saying that he had acted properly and hinted that there was little prospect of the internal exile of Mr Wareing coming to an end. But party sources confirmed last night that Mr Blair would contact Mr Wareing next week after his holiday. The source said: "Bob Wareing will be given a full and thorough reply to his letters when the Prime Minister comes back."

Mr Wareing has written to Mr Blair expressing his relief that he has "taken the matter into his own hands".

Mr Wareing compared his resulting depression from the suspension with Mr McMaster. "I know exactly how Gordon will have felt during his last dark hours and I am deeply sorry that he was unable to come through his own turmoil."

Letters, page 19

The tough guy who also knows how to soft-soap

NICK BROWN, 47, relishes his role as one of the most powerful and feared individuals at Westminster. Traditionally the power has been wielded behind the scenes, but he has been thrust into the limelight by his role as whipfinder-general in Paisley and by the Robert Wareing affair.

While he is described as more of a nice cop than a bully, he has been given powers which his predecessors as Chief Whip could only dream of: instant suspension of erring MPs. He once said: "They would risk expulsion from whatever I could get them expelled from."

Affable, articulate and bright, he still manages to convey an aura of quiet menace. Yet his first job after graduating from Manchester University, was an advertising executive with Procter and Gamble. Having initially excelled Ariel washing powder, he then a fabric softener into a household name with the slogan: "Providing housewives with a softness and freshness they have never known before." It is still in use.

He cut short his advertising career to move into management in a chain of laundrettes, but eventually turned his back

MAN IN THE NEWS

on soap powder to work in the legal department of the GMB. In 1983 he became MP for Newcastle-upon-Tyne East. He was marked out for promotion and became deputy to Margaret Beckett, when she was Shadow Leader of the Commons. Before the election, he was Deputy Chief whip. Few people who know him were surprised by his decision to ostracise Robert Wareing. He has always been a staunch believer that the role of individuals should be subservient to the good of the party.



Brown: good cop rather than bully



Molten metal is poured into a cast at Whitechapel yesterday. Dozens of bells will be cast for the millennium.

RUSTY church bells which have lain silent for more than a century are to be restored in a £3 million project to ring in the millennium. Dozens more new bells will be cast and hung in churches around Britain in an initiative which began yesterday (Carol Midgley writes).

Bell castings for three of the buildings, St John the Evangelist, Preston, St Thomas à Becket chapel, Shirenewton, Cheshire, and St Peter and St Paul, Wingrave, Buckinghamshire, started in Whitechapel, East London, at one of two such foundries in the country. The

Bells will ring again to mark the millennium

funding was allocated by the Millennium Commission to plans proposed by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, a charity of volunteers formed in 1891. About 100 churches and other buildings will have new and restored bells

which will peal out the close of the second millennium and the start of the third.

A spokesman for the ringers said: "It is very exciting as new bells will be placed alongside old ones which may have been out of use for decades. All the bells throughout Britain will be sounding out at midnight on New Year's Eve, 1999. It will be fantastic."

"The idea of ringing in the millennium nationwide with new and restored bells, some of which have been silent for over 100 years, precisely fits the spirit of the millennium celebration."

Farmers protest at strength of pound

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

FARMERS protested yesterday that the strength of the pound was threatening their livelihoods. They demanded hundreds of millions of pounds from the Government in compensation.

Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, said the 20 per cent appreciation of sterling over the past 12 months would reduce the value of agricultural output by £1.5 billion this year.

He was speaking after a 3.6 per cent revaluation yesterday of the "green pound", the special exchange rate used to convert European Union farm prices and subsidies into sterling. It is the fourth such change this year.

The NFU estimates that the sterling price of milk has fallen by 14 per cent and that of feed wheat by 28 per cent over the past year.

More hospital waits put election pledge at risk

By James Landale, Political Reporter

THE Government was given a warning yesterday that it was likely to break its election pledge to cut hospital waiting lists, after new figures showed the largest increase since 1948.

Health officials said the number of patients waiting to be admitted had risen by 12.9 per cent since June 1996, a rise of 136,500 to a total of 1.2 million. The Tories said Labour would be forced to break its manifesto promise to cut waiting lists by 100,000, using money saved from cuts in hospital bureaucracy.

Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, blamed the rise on the previous Tory administration and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to make waiting list cuts a priority.

However, the minister admitted that the figures were likely to continue rising. Speaking on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, Mr Milburn said: "We would be pulling the wool over people's eyes if I didn't make it clear

today that the likelihood is that waiting lists are going to carry on rising for some time."

John Maples, the Shadow Health Secretary, said: "Today's figures show that the Government is likely to break its key election pledge to reduce NHS waiting lists by 100,000. Unfortunately, the Government is exacerbating the problem by increasing costs and reducing efficiency. This means that the Labour-run NHS needs more money than a Conservative-run NHS to treat the same number of patients."

Evan Harris, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman, criticised the Government for making promises it could not keep.

He said ministers had to choose between breaking their election pledge to reduce waiting lists or to raise the upper rate of income tax. "Labour cannot blame the Tory NHS spending record for the state of NHS waiting lists while at

the same time adopting Tory spending plans," he said.

The figures also showed that the number of people waiting more than 18 months for treatment - a breach of the Patient's Charter - had also risen. At the end of June this year, the figure was 388, compared with only nine a year earlier. The number of patients waiting more than a year has risen by 56,000 since last year, when the total stood at 10,400.

Overall, waiting lists have increased in seven of the eight health regions, with only Trent experiencing a fall. However, comparisons between regions are complicated by differing population levels and numbers of hospitals.

In Trent, 121,030 people were waiting treatment, a cut of 310. The largest list is in the North West region, where 187,880 patients were awaiting treatment, a rise of 2,650. In the Northern and Yorkshire region, the list ran to 145,420, a rise of 4,757.

Friends lobby for lawyer to be Irish president

By Audrey Magee
Ireland Correspondent

A LETTER-WRITING campaign is under way in Ireland to have the pro-vice chancellor of Queen's University elected as the next Irish president.

Friends and colleagues of Mary McAleese, Professor of Law at the Belfast university, are lobbying members of the Fianna Fail party to nominate her as successor to Mary Robinson, according to the Irish Examiner newspaper.

Professor McAleese, 46, is one of eight people now openly lobbying to succeed Mrs Robinson, who stands down on September 12 to become the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner. Other candidates include Albert Reynolds, the former Prime Minister, and Dana, the former Eurovision Song Contest winner who wants to return Catholic and conservative values to Ireland. John Hume, the SDLP leader, is expected to announce in early September whether he wants the job.

Until Mrs Robinson assumed the role seven years ago, the Irish presidency was a retirement post given to political favourites. Each party put forward a party member as candidate, and the winner took the post. However, Mrs Robinson has extended and modernised the role.

Professor McAleese is from nationalist Ardara in Belfast and studied law at Trinity College Dublin. She is a former Reid Professor of Law at Trinity, a post also held by Mrs Robinson, and was a current affairs broadcaster on RTE, the Irish television channel. In 1987, she stood as a Fianna Fail candidate in Dublin South East but failed to be elected. Ms McAleese is the third Catholic from Northern Ireland to express interest in the post. Mr Hume and Dana are both from Londonderry.

But Fianna Fail sources yesterday dismissed Ms McAleese's chances of representing the party in the election on October 30th. She needs the backing of 20 members of the Irish parliament or senate by the end of September to be eligible to stand.

"I would say Mary McAleese has as much chance of getting a nomination as Dana. She is a non-runner," said the source. Ms McAleese declined to comment yesterday.

A tribunal report on secret payments to Irish politicians including £1.3 million to the former Prime Minister Charles Haughey, will be published on Monday.

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DELL

Millionaire's son is cleared of assault on police

A MILLIONAIRE shoe-shop businessman who fosters underprivileged children spoke of his relief last night after one of his adopted sons was acquitted of assaulting a policeman.

John Timpson, chairman of the Oliver group, which owns 310 shoe shops under the name of Oliver's and Timpson's names, hugged his son Oliver, 21, after a jury cleared him of causing actual bodily harm for allegedly punching and kicking a policeman following a heavy drinking session with work colleagues.

Mr Timpson senior, who has five children, including another adopted son, and who has fostered dozens of children over the past 20 years with his wife, Alexandra, said: "It is a great relief. It has been a stressful time, but we are a close family and this has brought us closer together."

His son, who works for his father's £70 million firm, added: "I have learned a lesson and I will certainly not be celebrating this verdict with nine pints."

The Timpsons live in a large house in Turporley in the stockbroker belt of Cheshire. Their three natural children, Victoria, James and Edward are grown up. The Timpsons

Father speaks of family's relief at verdict on boy he adopted, reports

Joanna Bale

also have an adopted son Henry, nine, who came to live with them as a newborn baby, and are currently fostering three other children.

Southwark Crown Court was told that Oliver Timpson had drunk eight or nine pints when he assaulted the policeman, who arrested him on December 13 last year.

PC Simon Suter, 32, was criticised in court for wrongly arresting Mr Timpson and accused of "deliberately exaggerating" his injuries to harm Mr Timpson's case and to back up his compensation claim against the Metropolitan Police.

Mr Timpson, who was adopted aged 7 after being fostered at 6, told the court he is normally a light drinker, but during a party with 30 colleagues of his father's firm, he became involved in a fight

at the Norfolk Tavern in South Kensington.

PC Suter arrived with a WPC and arrested Mr Timpson for "being drunk on licensed premises" which is not an arrestable charge. At Chelsea police station he became involved in a struggle with them as he tried to leave. All three fell struggling to the floor. It was then that PC Suter said he was kicked and punched.

Mr Timpson told the court he could not remember exactly what happened but he accepted he may have used his feet. He said: "I was thrashing out in general to get away from the officers."

PC Suter was declared unfit for duty and sent home after a police surgeon treated him for shock and injuries to his ribs and head. The officer later saw his own doctor and a psychiatrist, claiming to be suffering from nightmares and insomnia. He said the incident had also brought on impulses of violence within him when in any scene of confrontation.

Judge Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, told the jury: "The only authority the police had was to arrest him from the pub. The police could have ejected him using reasonable force but they had no right to arrest him."

The law says, just as a police officer may use reasonable force to make an arrest, a person unlawfully arrested is entitled to use such force that is reasonably necessary to free himself from unreasonable arrest."

Mr Timpson senior said he had yet to consider a claim for damages against the police. His son, who rang his natural mother after the verdict, added: "I will be careful in future where and how much I drink."

PC Suter was unavailable for comment.



Shoe shop owner John Timpson with his son, Oliver.

Family of man blinded in fight to sue privately

By RICHARD DUCE

ANGRY relatives of a man left blinded and crippled after he tried to halt a street brawl plan to sue privately against the man they hold responsible for his injuries.

Although Mark Bowman was jailed for 15 months yesterday for his part in the brawl, he was earlier cleared of attacking Daniel Gallimore because police did not hold an identity parade.

Mr Gallimore suffered serious head injuries when he was knocked to the floor as he intervened in the brawl involving Bowman and another man, Wayne Pople.

Sylvia Gallimore, who saw Bowman jailed at Bristol Crown Court for affray and for the assault on Mr Pople, said she was determined to win justice for her injured son, who is 21. She is hoping to get legal aid to bring a private prosecution against Bowman, of Nailsea, near Bristol.

"I am glad he has been jailed but justice has not been done. My son will never be able to see again properly and nobody has been punished for that."

"We are also considering taking civil action. This is not the end of the matter. Beyond a doubt the failure to hold an identity parade was the reason the case was dropped. If we cannot get legal aid, and we think there is a strong possibility that we will, we will consider a public appeal for funds or even a loan."

Mrs Gallimore, 49, a school secretary of Redland, Bristol, said: "Bowman can go back to his job. My son cannot work again. Mr Gallimore was in a coma for a month after he suffered his injuries outside a Bristol public house in May last year and is now confined to a wheelchair. He has lost sight in one eye and can barely see out of the other."

Before yesterday's hearing he said: "No one seems bothered about what happened to me. My injuries seem to have been ignored. There doesn't seem to be any justice in this country."

Three men were arrested after the incident and both Bowman and Mark Horler, also 21 of Bedminster, Bristol, were eventually charged with the attack on Mr Gallimore, a computer technician. However, the charges were dropped after a judge was told there had been no identity parade.

Inspector Keith Jones of Avon and Somerset police said: "Identity was not in question at the time of the original charges. An old-fashioned committal hearing of the evidence was held and accepted by the magistrates who thought there was a case to answer. However, the judge at Crown Court decided that it was unsafe to put before a jury. The witnesses had named the accused and said they knew them. It appears they did not."

Husband who tried to kill wife freed

By A STAFF REPORTER

A HUSBAND who wrongly believed for 50 years that he had contracted a venereal disease during National Service tried to murder his wife because he thought she was dying from it.

William Everett, 69, described at the Old Bailey as a placid man, suddenly attacked his partner of 34 years with a truncheon and a carving knife at their home in Romford, Essex, in May this year. He also tried to strangle her. It was his intention then to kill himself.

The retired security guard, who admitted the attempted murder of his wife Joy, 68 — who has forgiven him and was in court to support her husband yesterday — and was shown mercy by the Common Sergeant of London, Neil Derison, QC, who placed him on probation for two years.

Because of the delusion that he had contracted a sexually transmitted disease, Everett had never had children. When earlier this year his wife contracted what, in fact, was simply conjunctivitis, he believed it was a manifestation of that disease.

The judge told him: "Mercifully your resolve failed and you stopped the attack before any fatal injuries were inflicted on your wife. She has forgiven you and she is desperate to have you home to end what she has described as her nightmare — and I am not going to stand in the way."

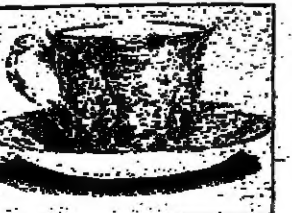
Cheap Woolworths tea set fetches £1,000 at Christie's

By JOHN SHAW

IT WAS just cheap and cheerful tableware which once sold for a few shillings at Woolworths. Now it is no longer cheap, and anyone who ever scorned it at a jumble sale is no longer cheerful. Yesterday, Christie's held the first specialised auction devoted to chintz pottery.

Items sold for up to £1,000. At the South Kensington auction, the so-called "potters" in everyday use from the 1930s to the 1960s was recognised as a collector's item.

The range included tea sets with two-tier cake stands transfer printed with roses,



Causing a stir: a chintz teacup

daffodils, bluebells or sweet peas. Hundreds of different patterns were made. Leonard Grimwade, founder of Royal Winton, is said to have drew inspiration for the designs from cushion covers and from aprons worn by his factory girls. The top lot yesterday

was a tea set in the intensely coloured Richmond pattern, which fetched £1,035, more than £100 above the top estimate. It was made by Royal Winton, one of the four Staffordshire factories producing chintz.

A pair of Crown Ducal vases in "ivory chintz" were bought by Jo Anne Welsh, an American estate agent from Maryland, who has written a book on the subject and was wearing a chintz-pattern necklace and bracelet. She paid £322 for vases which had been estimated at £150-£200.

Twenty-two of 103 lots were left unsold, but a second sale is planned for October.



More than 100 fans queued outside the HMV record store in Oxford Street yesterday. The store sold 750 copies of *Be Here Now* in the first hour

A CARDBOARD cut-out of Liam Gallagher rubs his hands with glee outside the HMV record store in Oxford Street as more than 100 Oasis fans queued yesterday to buy the group's new album (Carol Midgley writes).

More than 750 copies of *Be Here Now* were sold within an hour of the store opening. The album is already on course to become the fastest-selling British album in history, with 9,000 an hour being sold nationwide by Our Price and Virgin Megastores. Retailers forecast that the band's third album would break the record held by Robson Green and Jerome Flynn, who sold 483,000 copies of *Robson and Jerome* in five days in December 1995.

Several hundred fans camped out all night outside

Hundreds camp out for launch of Oasis album

tailors forecast that the band's third album would break the record held by Robson Green and Jerome Flynn, who sold 483,000 copies of *Robson and Jerome* in five days in December 1995.

record shops to be the first to buy *Be Here Now* at £13.99 when stores opened at 8am. Their loyalty was rewarded with "I Was There Then" certificates or Manchester City shirts, the football team supported by Noel and Liam Gallagher, handed out by

HMV staff. However, the brothers were absent. Liam and his wife, Patsy Kensit, were on holiday in St Tropez while Noel and his wife, Meg Matthews, rented a villa in Marbella.

An estimated 800,000 albums had been ordered by

shops nationwide but by the end of the day many stores had sold out. HMV said that it expected to have sold 100,000 copies by close of trading today. "We multiply by five to account for the other retailers which will mean estimated sales of 500,000 nationwide by the end of the week," it said.

Tower Records, Piccadilly Circus, reported its biggest morning sales for any album in the store's ten-year history.

Pop, page 33

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To make us in improving our service we may record or monitor telephone calls. *As a percentage of purchase price or valuation price, whichever is lower. For the above fixed rate there is a 150 non-refundable, booking fee and completion must take place by 12.12.97. To benefit from this fixed rate you must make a deposit of at least 25%. Valuation Bonus consists of a refund towards the cost of a valuation for mortgage purposes up to a maximum of £400. If on or before 31.10.2002 you redeem the mortgage, unless simultaneously with redemption a new mortgage is completed with us (except one administered by Abbey National Mortgage Finance plc), transfer from the fixed rate before the end of the fixed rate period, or make capital repayments (except normal monthly repayments on a repayment mortgage), a charge of 160 days' gross interest at the fixed rate on the amount repaid or transferred will be payable. All loans are subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time. Typical example for a Fixed Rate of 7.18% (7.5% APR) until 31.10.2002: to include Valuation Bonus. A couple (male and female), who currently do not have a mortgage with Abbey National, non smokers, aged 29, applying for an endowment mortgage of £40,000 on a purchase price of £60,000, secured over 25 years, 300 monthly interest payments of £212.40 net of tax plus the first repayment of £40,000 capital. 300 monthly endowment payments of £58.38. Total amount payable £112,359.70 includes £350 booking fee, £65 deeds handling (for charged on redemption), £117.50 legal fees, £38.20 accrued interest (assuming completion on 28.11.97). Example calculated at 7.18% (7.5% APR). All APRs are typical and variable and based on an endowment mortgage. Please note in addition to the fixed rate we will charge a fee equivalent to the benefit you receive under Valuation Bonus if, on or before 31.10.2002, the mortgage is repaid, unless a new mortgage is completed simultaneously with us (other than a mortgage administered by Abbey National Mortgage Finance plc). All rates correct at time of going to press. Secured loans and mortgages require a charge on the property and in the case of an endowment mortgage, an endowment life policy for the amount of the advance and a charge over the policy. All loans subject to status and valuation and not available to persons under 18 years of age. We require the property to be insured. Written quotations are available on request. Abbey National plc, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, only sells its own life assurance, pension and unit trust products. Abbey National and the Unibank Couple symbol are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 1NS, United Kingdom.

Lin Jenkins reports on a holiday spree fuelled by heatwave and windfalls

An AA Roadwatch spokesman said: "The evening rush

He warned motorists to

unpredictability of a front

Tomorrow will be cloudy in the morning with temperatures up to 28°C with a risk of rain from the south west in all areas.

**Forecast, and
AA Roadwatch, page 24**

Forecast, and
page 24



BY DANIEL MCGROBRY

Unfortunately, when it stopped for a rest, the bird landed in the lifers' wing at Wormwood Scrubs. An in-

er, who inevitably became known to other inmates as the Birdman of the Scrubs, shared his biscuits with Ollie

yesterday. Miss Oliver, a legal secretary in Barnes, west London, said: "Ollie was exhausted and the pris-

two years ago, had not picked up any prison slang: "We are very careful to make sure he behaves himself."

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Prescott takes pollution tips from abroad

MINISTERS visiting European cities have been ordered to take public transport and report back on successful measures to combat air pollution, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday.

The operation, which is being launched in a few weeks and will continue through Britain's EU presidency beginning in January, is likely to keep British politicians busy.

London, like most British cities, has no emergency measures to stop air pollution becoming a health hazard and few cities have long-term schemes to tackle the problem.

Ministers urged to report back from foreign trips on how Britain can clean up its act, reports Nick Nuttall

Scores of overseas cities, including Paris, have been more visionary, however.

Athens has tested cutting the number of cars during high pollution episodes by allowing only cars with odd-numbered plates in to the city one day and even-numbered ones the next.

São Paulo in Brazil, which suffers persistent high levels of pollution, has launched a version of the Athens scheme, which operates throughout the summer. A rota system, in which a fifth of cars

normally entering the city are banned for a week, has been introduced. The project is backed up by thousands of enforcement officers handing out fines to motorists breaking the rules. A spokesman for Transport 2000 said that the compliance rate was over 90 per cent.

Tim Brown, of the National Society for Clean Air, said yesterday that several German cities had banned vehicles without catalytic converters on polluted days. Some cities, such as Bremen, are

pioneering communities with little or no car parking. In return, the houses have more space and green areas. Roger Higman, of Friends of the Earth, said yesterday that Edinburgh City Council and Camden council, in north London, were looking at similar schemes.

Gothenburg, in Sweden, in common with several Scandinavian cities, has declared environmental zones. Only modern HGVs, taxis and buses meeting high emissions standards are allowed.

Salzburg has declared Fridays ozone-free in a bid to get people thinking about leaving the car at home. Warden patrol traffic jams on Thursdays, handing out free bus tickets for the next day. The scheme is being run in conjunction with a steady decrease in parking and road space, and more bicycle and bus lanes.

Zurich has seen a fall in car use and pollution over the past decade. Journeys to work by car have dropped from 24 per cent to 18 per cent. Now 60 per cent of travel to work is by Zurich's network of

trams, trolleys and buses. Mr Brown said: "There have also been some pretty madcap ideas. Mexico City have proposed putting up propellers on nearby hills to blow smog away."

Mr Prescott said yesterday: "I do think we have a lot to learn from other European countries. They have more cars per head than we do. But they use them less because they have a good public transport system."

Mr Brown, whose society represents scientists, local authorities

and campaigners, said Paris could afford to slash public transport costs on polluted days because the city owned the public transport network and this could subsidise cut-price fares.

He said boroughs in London and in other cities wanted to follow suit but they were effectively barred from doing so: "They can't divert funds to subsidise such schemes."

He said that, if the Government were really serious about tackling the issue, perks such as subsidised company cars with free parking and fuel should be taxed and the funds given to improving public transport.

Second-car boom puts the electoral brake on reforms

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

SIX million families are unlikely to give up their cars unless the Government risks a political backlash and tries to tax them off the roads and into buses and taxis.

The growth of households with more than one car reflects rapidly changing lifestyles in which fathers, mothers and children scatter into different directions, to reach work, school and shops.

Twenty years ago, when Father was driving a rickety Austin Allegro, Mother bought groceries at the corner shop and the children walked to school, only one in ten households had two or more cars. Today that figure has risen to one in four because of increased affluence and the growth in company cars.

People in rural communities are to shop in towns and choose schools for their children which offer wider opportunities than the ones in their villages. The result is a huge change in the infrastructure of communities: shopping is now a major weekly event for working parents instead of a daily visit by a housewife.

The Automobile Association says that 90 per cent of shopping journeys are made by car, usually to the edge-of-town supermarkets which have helped to kill off the corner shop. Eight in ten AA members say that life would be "very difficult" without a car and, if motoring costs rose substantially, they would simply do without leisure trips but still use the car for shopping, the school run and work.

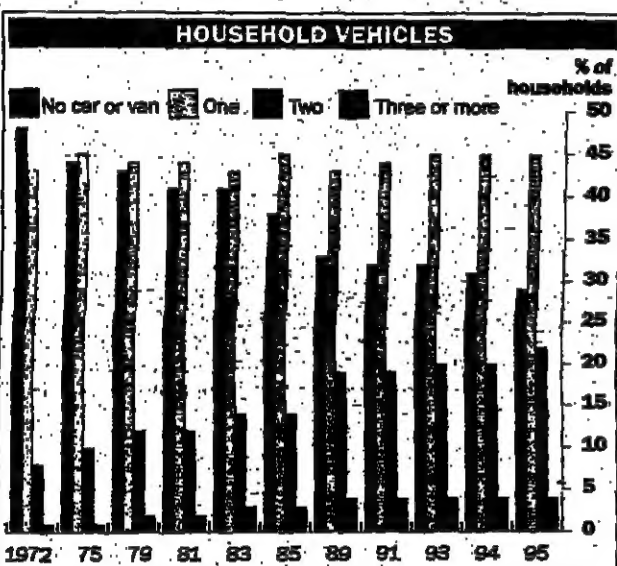
Paul Waters, the AA's head of road and transport policy, said: "It is a huge mistake to think of the second car as some sort of luxury. There are

no alternatives for families which have complex travelling arrangements to different places and at different times of the day. The Government should also not forget that Britain's motorists have many needs and rural communities simply do not have the choice. Families in villages have to have more than one car just to cope with their daily lives."

Chris MacGowan, chief executive of the Retail Motor Industry Federation, added: "If we look at rural areas, where is the funding to come from to pay for John Prescott's public transport? Until there is a clear, reliable and safe alternative, people will not use public transport."

Motor industry executives will also tell Mr Prescott that the dire warnings of an explosion in car ownership are unfounded. Car ownership in Britain is already much lower than in many industrialised countries - 430 per thousand people compared with 530 in Italy, 500 in Germany and 590 in the United States - and the number of multi-car homes has remained constant over the past decade at about 20 per cent. Households with three or more cars have remained at 4 per cent since 1989, while total annual sales of new cars have remained steady at about 2 million for the past decade.

Those figures back up estimates by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders that car ownership is levelling out and will not hit the 40 million predicted by government advisors for 2020. Studies by the society show a peak of not more than 30 million.



How families get about today

Some households find that they need three cars; and some husbands opt for two wheels, reports Peter Foster

WHEN David and Clare Thompson moved to the country from London last month they had to buy a second car.

In the capital, they often found it easier to use the Tube and buses than fight through traffic congestion. Now that they live in the village of Hurstbourne Tarrant in Hampshire, Mrs Thompson could not manage without her Volkswagen Polo runabout.

Mr Thompson, 33, is an area manager for a large brewing firm and drives around as part of his job. After his husband has left for work in his Peugeot 406 estate, she drives to the out-of-town supermarket to buy items for their new home.

"Our second car is a necessity. If I didn't have it I would be marooned while David is at work. In London, one of us

would drive to work and the other take the Tube, but out here the public transport is not good enough."

The demise of the village shop and the rise of the shopping centre on the edge of towns inevitably meant more car journeys, Mrs Thompson, 31, said. She has found the local bus service too infrequent to be practical, particularly for carrying heavy shopping home. She recognised that tough decisions would have to be made to deal with car congestion, but admitted that she would not be first to volunteer to do without her car.

The couple, who do not have children at the moment, use one car at weekends. "Life would become an organisational nightmare," Mrs Thompson said.

her driving test this year. Pauline and Sean Gay, who live in Wandsworth, south-west London, acquired an Austin Metro so their daughter could drive herself to the restaurant where she works.

Mr Gay drives his ageing Saab saloon to the City. Mrs Gay has a Ford Sierra estate for shopping and ferrying her children to riding lessons in Cobham, Surrey. Her daughter's new-found independence makes life easier for Mrs Gay as well.

Mr Gay has a job with a shipping company which involves driving to ports around Britain. Giving up one or more of their cars would, Mrs Gay said, mean that her girls would have to give up riding. "Life would become an organisational nightmare."

The family would not be deterred by charges for using roads in cities. "The only way to make a real difference is to ban cars from inner London," Mrs Gay said.

Barry Sutton, who is married with five children, bought a motorcycle when his family outgrew his sports car. The 600cc Yamaha that replaced the Porsche offers him cheap, fast and efficient transport.

For years, he commuted by train from Ashford, Middlesex: "I used to waste three hours a day fighting my way



Barry Sutton on his 600cc Yamaha

into work, putting up with strikes and leaves on the line. Now my journey takes 30 minutes and I am not at the back and call of a train timetable."

His wife, Niki, 34, has a Fiat people-carrier for taking the children into town and to school. The whole family go on their summer holidays to Scotland in the car.

Mr Sutton, 33, who works as a financial adviser in London, also uses his bike to get to golf and rugby at the weekends. He believes that people will never take public transport as long as it remains inefficient and inconvenient.

He said: "The Government should create special bike lanes to make it easier for bikers to use the roads, instead of banning them from bus and cycle lanes."

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Lady in the Lake mystery haunts village of lost wife

Russell Jenkins reports as police near identification

DETECTIVES investigating the mystery of the "Lady in the Lake" are waiting to talk to the husband of a woman who vanished 21 years ago, to help to piece together events before her disappearance.

Gordon Park, 54, now a retired school teacher, is believed to be cycling around France with his third wife, and unaware that police are on the verge of naming his first wife as the murder victim found in Coniston Water.

Detective Superintendent Ian Douglas, heading the inquiry, is expected to name her today as Carol Park, 30, a teacher and mother of three, who disappeared from Leese, near Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. Yesterday detectives moved into Leese as part of their investigations.

Villagers spoke of Mr Park as a strong family man. After his wife's disappearance, he



Carol Park: her sister was killed by a lover

continued to make increasingly desperate pleas for her to come home, as he struggled to bring up the children. Vanessa, then eight, Jeremy, six, and Rachel, five. Maureen Cooper, a farmer's wife, said: "He was a very good father. You have to admire him for

raising the children after she disappeared. It was the talk of the village and no doubt will be again."

Mr Park was granted a dissolution of his first marriage in 1979 and married a school meals adviser in 1981. That marriage failed and he married his third wife, Olive, in 1993. He left Leese and now lives in Hawcoat, a quiet suburb of Barrow.

Mrs Park's brother, Ivor Price, 57, a retired shipyard worker from Walney, near Barrow, said that he was steeling himself for news of her death. The family had lived in hope that she had gone to seek a new life, and they made a renewed effort to find her as recently as two years ago. Mr Price said: "Vanessa asked me on behalf of Carol's children to instigate a new search. That started to happen, but it waned. We

have never given up hope. The police have assured me I will be informed as soon as they definitely know it is her."

Mrs Park was last seen alive by her husband on July 17, 1976, at their bungalow. They were due to take the children to Blackpool for a day trip, but she stayed behind, complaining that she felt ill. When the

family returned, she had vanished.

The body discovered early last week by four amateur sub-aqua divers was 15 miles from the family home. It was wrapped in a series of bags and binliners and wearing a distinctive nylon baby-doll nightie. Detectives are hopeful of a near-perfect match of

dental records after a local dentist retrieved an X-ray from decaying records in a lock up garage.

Mr Douglas said: "We think we are on to the right person. We are quite close to identifying the body, but the match is not 100 per cent. We are still following other lines of inquiry." If the body is Mrs Park's,

it will be the second killing to strike the family. In 1964 her sister, Christine, was choked to death by a lover, John Rapson, 19. He claimed that she taunted him about his sexual performance and said that she had another lover.

Mrs Park adopted her dead sister's daughter, Vanessa, and brought her up. Neighbours said that Mr Park and his wife had taken a gite in France for an extended holiday. They drove away in a red Honda car with a tandem bicycle on the roof rack. One neighbour said: "They went away before the body was found in Coniston, so we presume that they know nothing about what is going on."



The search for clues at Coniston Water after the discovery of the body, 15 miles from the home of Carol Park, who vanished in 1976

Opera House exit leads McIntosh to National encore

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THREE months after Genista McIntosh abruptly left the Royal Opera House, citing "ill-health", she announced yesterday that she was going back to work.

The former chief executive of Covent Garden is returning to her previous job as executive director of the Royal National Theatre, working alongside Trevor Nunn when he takes over as director from Sir Richard Eyre on October 1.

Few had believed the official reason for her sudden exit from the ROH. To everyone's surprise, Ms McIntosh, 50, confessed all last month to MPs on the Culture, Media

and Sport Select Committee. Telling them that there had been a "mismatch between herself and the organisation", she admitted that she had been "extremely unhappy".

The National yesterday welcomed her back with open arms. Mr Nunn described it as "a great day for me, for the National Theatre and theatre in this country".

He spoke of his delight that Ms McIntosh will be by his side "to facilitate" the directorial changeover. "She was widely acknowledged as a brilliant executive director of the National from 1990 to 1996 and she and I worked closely together at the RSC from 1972 to 1986."

Commenting on whether she regretted leaving the National, she said: "I'm not a great one for regrets. Every experience is always valuable — even the nasty ones." Ms McIntosh had proved irreplaceable. The RNT had been unable to find a suitable candidate from the 29 people who applied for the job. Insiders said yesterday: "This is most fortuitous. At a company meeting announcing Jenny's return, there was a spontaneous round of applause. There must have been 350 people there."



McIntosh: working with Trevor Nunn



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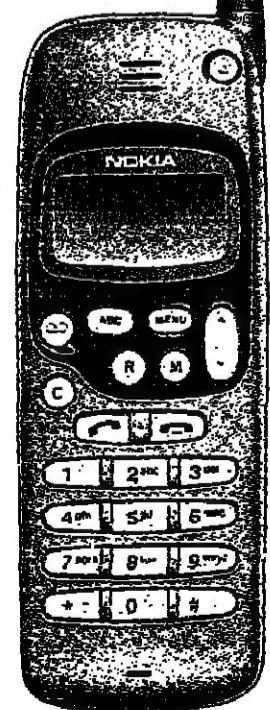
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Reading tops the table for boys and girls

Schools are listed in order of the proportion of their pupils gaining the top grades of A or A*, based upon information supplied by them yesterday.

School	Can	A*	A	%
Kendrick Sch, Reading, Berks	LEA Girls	83	28.7	73.8
Chelmsford County High Sch, Essex	GM girls	97	28.3	71.0
Colchester County High Sch, Essex	GM girls	98	25.7	70.4
The Henrietta Barnett Sch, London	LEA girls	82	32.7	69.5
King Edward VI Camp Hill Sch, Birmingham	GM girls	96	24.3	69.0
Lancaster Royal Grammar Sch, Lancashire	GM boys	104	25.7	68.7
Wolverhampton Girls' High Sch, W Midlands	GM girls	91	25.4	66.5
Lafayette Sch, Edmonton, London	GM mxd	183	22.3	64.7
King Edward VI Grammar, Chelmsford, Essex	GM boys	88	15.8	64.1
Clitheroe Royal Grammar Sch, Lancs	GM mxd	124	25.0	63.8
Newstead Wood Sch, Chipping, Kent	GM girls	112	22.0	63.6
Tiffin Girls Sch, Kingston Upon Thames	LEA girls	118	18.3	63.0
Queen Mary's High Sch, Walsall	GM girls	100	15.3	61.8
Parkstone Grammar Sch, Poole, Dorset	GM girls	146	18.5	60.6
Dr Chesham's High Sch For Girls, Bucks	GM girls	144	23.4	60.4
King Edward VI Handsworth, Birmingham	GM girls	128	19.3	60.2
Woodford County High Sch, Essex	LEA girls	119	25.0	60.0
Pate's Grammar Sch, Cheltenham, Glos	GM mxd	120	22.1	59.1
Lancaster Girls' Grammar Sch, Lancashire	GM girls	95	23.4	59.0
King Edward VI Camp Hill Sch, Birmingham	GM boys	93	22.1	58.4
St Albans School, Hertfordshire	LEA girls	147	14.9	57.7
St Clare's & St Saviour's Convent, Chipping	GM boys	94	24.3	57.1
Ernest's Grammar, Skipton, N Yorks	Vol boys	85	18.9	56.8
Stratford Grammar, Bedford	Vol girls	123	13.2	54.7
Tonbridge Grammar Sch, Tonbridge	GM girls	167	16.2	54.2
Altrincham Grammar Sch, Altrincham, Cheshire	GM girls	163	24.0	53.6
Westcliffe High Sch, Essex	GM girls	131	18.0	53.5
Royal Grammar Sch, High Wycombe, Bucks	GM boys	188	15.8	53.4
St Michael's Catholic Grammar Sch, London	GM girls	94	15.3	51.5
Blue Coat School, Liverpool	LEA girls	121	14.9	51.0
Colyton Grammar Sch, Colyton, Devon	GM mxd	102	16.3	50.1
South Wilts Grammar Sch, Salisbury, Wilt	GM girls	120	14.0	50.0
Torquay Boys' Grammar Sch, Devon	GM boys	132	16.6	50.0
Dartford Grammar Sch, Kent	GM girls	137	12.4	49.9
Newport Girls, Shropshire	GM girls	300	10.3	49.0
Colchester Royal Grammar Sch, Essex	GM boys	98	12.5	47.5
The Skirrow Sch, Tunbridge Wells, Kent	GM boys	108	13.2	46.0
Dr Challoner's Grammar, Amersham, Bucks	LEA boys	192	11.0	46.0
Aylesbury Grammar, Bucks	LEA boys	179	13.6	45.3
Bishop Wordsworth Sch, Salisbury, Wilt	GM boys	118	15.6	45.1
Tiffin Boys Sch, London	LEA boys	112	12.2	45.1
Sacred Heart Grammar, Newry, Co Down	Vol girls	122	9.9	45.1
Wycombe High, Bucks	Vol girls	233	11.4	44.8
Calder Grammar Sch, Lancs	GM mxd	90	8.2	44.2
West Kirby Grammar Sch, Merseyside	LEA girls	186	12.7	44.1
Hockmole Grammar Sch, W Yorks	LEA girls	118	11.8	43.3
Rugby High School, Warwick	GM girls	91	10.9	43.3
St Alban's Sch, Herts	LEA girls	184	15.3	43.3
Queen Mary's Grammar Sch, Walsall, W Mids	GM boys	94	13.1	43.3
Ripon Grammar Sch, Ripon, N Yorks	LEA mxd	109	13.5	43.2
Southend High Sch, Southend, Essex	GM girls	128	7.7	43.1
The Grosvenor Sch, Wiltshire	GM mxd	118	10.3	41.3
Sir Roger Manners Sch, Sandwich, Kent	GM mxd	97	13	41
Aylesbury High Sch, Bucks	LEA girls	180	11.0	41.0
Maidstone Grammar Sch, Kent	LEA girls	180	10.0	41.0
Queen Elizabeth's Sch, Lincs	GM mxd	108	11.6	40.7
Altrincham Grammar Sch, Altrincham, Cheshire	GM boys	146	11.6	40.4
King Edward VI, Aston, Birmingham	GM boys	90	12.0	40.0
Westcliff High Sch, Essex	GM boys	128	10.5	39.8
St Patrick's Grammar Sch, Armagh	Vol boys	119	7.5	39.8
Haybridge High Sch, Hagley, Worcs	LEA mxd	148	8.7	39.2
Malden Grammar Sch, Kent	LEA boys	175	11.0	39.0
Armin Grammar School, Armin	LEA mxd	118	11.6	38.9
Devonport High Sch, Plymouth, Devon	GM boys	128	10.4	38.9
Watford Grammar Sch, Watford, Herts	GM girls	179	11.9	38.4
Ballyclare High Sch, Antrim	LEA mxd	183	7.8	38.3
Lady Margaret Sch, Petersham, London	LEA girls	87	10.4	38.0
Sir William Borlase's Grammar, Marlborough	LEA mxd	145	10	38
Caldy Grange Grammar Sch, Wiltshire	GM boys	178	8.0	37.9
Dame Alice Owen's, Potters Bar, Herts	GM mxd	188	10.9	37.5
Queen Elizabeth, Gainsborough, Lincoln	LEA mxd	168	8.7	36.5
Beaconsfield High, Bucks	GM girls	138	18.0	37.0
Sir Henry Floyd Grammar Sch, Aylesbury	LEA mxd	144	7.8	37
Wallingford County Grammar, Surrey	GM girls	132	9.6	36.8
Rochester Girls Grammar Sch, Kent	GM mxd	120	9.2	36.8
Crabtree Sch, Cranbrook, Kent	GM girls	114	8.2	36.5
Silverdale Sch, Sheffield	LEA mxd	146	8.9	36.0
Urmston Grammar Sch, Urmston, Manchester	LEA mxd	184	7.7	35.8
Heamond High Sch, London	GM mxd	148	12.0	34.9
Dover Grammar Sch, Dover, Kent	GM boys	88	8.4	34.7
The King's Sch, Grantham, Lincs	GM girls	124	8.6	34.4
King Edward VI, Five Ways, Birmingham	GM boys	94	8.3	34.0
Sir Thomas Rich's, Gloucester	LEA boys	90	6.0	34.0



Army cadets from Cheshire in North Yorkshire queue for the vital call to hear their results

TWO grammar schools in Reading yesterday recorded the best GCSE results for both boys and girls. The girls of Kendrick School topped the year's first GCSE league table, while Reading School recorded the best for boys.

The Berkshire town eclipsed its Essex rivals in Chelmsford and Colchester, where the grammar schools have regularly headed examination league tables. Kendrick's lead of almost three percentage points over Chelmsford County High School for Girls is the largest winning margin in recent years.

Marsha Elms, Kendrick's headmistress, said: "There are a million reasons why the girls have done so well, but the main one is that we care for them and we don't spend all our time concentrating on league tables. They have put on fashion shows and musicals - if you had told me this was a year which we would come top in the GCSEs a few weeks ago I would not have believed you."

She admitted that the girls did an "enormous" amount of homework but they were limited to ten GCSE subjects to stop them working even harder. "You can work hard here

Berkshire has ended Essex's run of league success, writes John O'Leary

and people don't take the mickey out of you."

The Essex schools had their own successes to celebrate, however. Colchester County High School, for example, boasted 28 girls with at least ten A or A* grades, a record for the school. Dr Aline Black, the headmistress, said: "We have had a dazzling year."

The league table of state schools includes most of the top performers in this year's record-breaking GCSE examinations. A full list will appear in *The Times* on August 30, when the independent schools publish their results.

Girls' schools fill the top five places in today's table, reflecting girls' substantial lead over boys at GCSE. The Henrietta Barnett School, North London, recorded the highest proportion of pupils at the top grade. Almost a third of the girls' entries gained A* grades.

Laymar School, in north London, is the top mixed school, in eighth place. Coat School, in Liverpool, boasted the best performance by a comprehensive intake. The school is now selective but was a comprehensive when this summer's GCSE pupils entered the school.

School	Can	A*	A	%
Coloma Convent Girls' Sch, Croydon	GM girls	117	10.1	33.2
King Edward VI Grammar Sch, Louth, Lincs	GM girls	125	8.2	33.0
Irtham Grammar Sch, Maidstone, Kent	LEA girls	122	6.0	33.0
Spalding High, Spalding, Lincs	LEA girls	144	6.7	33.0
Watford Grammar Sch, Watford, Herts	GM mxd	182	8.1	32.5
The King's Sch, Peterborough	GM mxd	180	10.2	32.0
Kesteven and Grantham Girls, Lincs	LEA girls	163	6.2	32
Fort Pitt Grammar Sch, Cranham, Kent	GM boys	123	9.0	31.9
Southend High Sch, Southend, Essex	LEA girls	118	8.6	31.8
Bullers Wood Sch, Christchurch, Dorset	GM girls	173	10	31.6
Townley Grammar Sch, Basildon, Essex	LEA girls	146	5.2	31.6
Bishop Vesey's, Sutt Coldfield, W Mids	Vol boys	116	8.4	31.4
Queen Elizabeth's Sch, Barnet, Herts	GM boys	177	10.0	31.0

School	Can	A*	A	%
Dane Court Grammar, Broadstairs, Kent	GM mxd	188	7.3	30.5
Cardiff High Sch, Cardiff	LEA mxd	188	7.8	30.8
Haybridge High Sch, Slough, Bucks	LEA mxd	148	8.7	30.5
Wilson's Sch, Wallington, Surrey	GM boys	121	7.5	30.5
The Royal Latin Sch, Buckingham	LEA mxd	164	6.2	30.2
Tunbridge Wells Grammar Sch, Kent	LEA boys	142	5.6	29.6
Sir Joseph Williamson's Sch, Rochester, Kent	LEA boys	144	5.0	29.5
Helaby High Sch, Helaby, Cheshire	LEA mxd	216	11.0	28.7
St George's Sch, Harpenden, Herts	Vol mxd	140	7.7	28.7
The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial Sch, London	GM boys	91	7.4	28.3
St Bernard's Convent Sch, Slough	LEA girls	127	5.0	28.2
King Edward VI Sch, Uxbridge, Bucks	LEA mxd	212	7.2	28.1
High Stone Sch, Sheffield, S Yorks	LEA mxd	232	7.1	27.8

School	Can	A*	A	%
Ranleigh Sch, Bracknell, Berks	Vol mxd	127	5.8	27.5
Emmanuel College CTC, Gateshead	GM mxd	155	5.4	27.4
Chesham High Sch, Chesham, Bucks	LEA mxd	170	5.2	27.6
Lurgan College, Lurgan, Co Armagh	LEA mxd	115	5.0	27.1
Tipton Sch, Sheffield	LEA mxd	217	5.0	27.1
North Halifax Grammar Sch, Halifax	LEA girls	132	5.0	26.3
Camden Sch, London	Vol mxd	87	5.8	26.0
King David High Sch, Liverpool	GM boys	180	4.0	26.0
The London Oratory Sch, London	LEA boys	122	4.0	26.0
John Hampden Grammar, Wycombe, Bucks	GM boys	119	6.1	25.5
Morling Sch, Stratford, Gloucs	LEA mxd	207	9.2	25.5
Oldha Sch, Slough, Swanes	LEA mxd	329	6.0	25.4
St Anne's Convent Sch, Southampton	GM girls	188	5.1	25.3
St Laurence Sch, Wiltshire	Vol mxd	182	7.2	25.3
Copthall, Mill Hill, London	LEA girls	174	5.2	24.7
Benenden, Maidstone, Kent	LEA girls	174	6.7	24.7
Bishop Luffa Sch, Chichester, W Sussex	Vol mxd	209	5.9	24.6
Jewish Free Sch, London	GM mxd	221	8.4	24.2
Maiden Erlegh Sch, Easing, Reading	LEA girls	111	9	24
Sacred Heart of Mary Girls, Uppminster, Essex	GM boys	93	7	24
Adam's Grammar Sch, Newport, Shropshire	LEA mxd	171	8.2	23.9
Pengelly Sch, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion	LEA mxd	94	6.3	23.7
Ysgol Gylun Bro Myrdin, Carmarthen	LEA mxd	171	8.7	23.5
Bishop Harbert High Sch, Malpas, Cheshire	LEA mxd	148	8.3	23.3
The Cherwell Sch, Oxford	GM boys	124	7.1	23.1
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar Sch, Carmarthen	LEA mxd	211	6.8	23.3
The Windsor Boys, Windsor, Berks	LEA mxd	218	8	23
Durham Johnstone Comprehensive, Durham	GM mxd	94	6	23
Slough Grammar, Slough, Berks	LEA mxd	104	4.9	22.8
Ysgol Meirion, Ynys-yddu, Mold	LEA mxd	208	8.6	22.5
Leintwardine High Sch, Leintwardine, Powys	LEA mxd	225	8.2	22.4
Marwood Sch, Alverstoke, Bristol	LEA mxd	142	5.2	22.2
Carlisle Comprehensive Sch, Newport	LEA mxd	289	6.1	22.3
Howard of Egham, Egham, Surrey	LEA mxd	229	5.3	22.2
Malmesbury Sch, Malmesbury, Wiltshire	GM mxd	187	5.5	22.1
Poynton County High Sch, Poynton, Cheshire	LEA mxd	229	5.3	22.2
Lady Mannes, Derby	LEA mxd	187	5.5	22.1
Cowbridge Comp, Vale of Glamorgan	LEA mxd	155	6.5	21.6
Ysgol Gylun Maesgwyn, Carmarthen	GM boys	98	4.1	21.8
Holy Family High Sch, Thurmont, Maryland	GM girls	111	4.3	21.7
Brooke Weston CTC, Corby, Northants	LEA mxd	157	5.2	21.1
Sandbach High Sch, Sandbach, Cheshire	LEA girls	181	8	21
Edon (City of Norwich), Norwich	LEA mxd	202	7	21
Widlow High Sch, Widlow, Cheshire	LEA mxd	182	6.3	21
Penrith Sch, Carlisle, Cumbria	LEA mxd	226	3.7	20.8
Alcester Sch, Alcester, Cheshire	LEA mxd	187	7.3	20.4
Orkney High Sch, Orkney, Poyles	LEA mxd	302	4.7	20.2
Oxley County Sch, Oxley, Surrey	GM mxd	153	4.4	20.2
Guilford County Sch, Surrey	LEA mxd	184	5.3	20.1
Natase Sch, North Somerset	LEA mxd	184	5.3	20.1
John Taylor High, Burton-on-Trent	LEA mxd	213	6.8	20
Fortmore Sch, Muswell Hill, London	LEA mxd	180	6	20
The Gryphon Sch, Sherborne	LEA mxd	166	4.3	20.1
Sale Grammar Sch, Sale	LEA mxd	184	5.0	19.6
Beaumont Sch, St Albans, Herts	LEA mxd	186	9.4	19.6
St Charles Sch, Thornby, Gloucs	LEA mxd	187	6.2	19.6
Oadby Beauchamp College, Leicestershire	LEA mxd	192	4.5	19.6
Ormskirk Grammar Sch, Ormskirk, Lancashire	Vol Boys	123	3.6	19.7
The Campton Sch, Homersham, Essex	GM girls	211	4.5	19.6
Roseberry, Epsom, Surrey	Vol mxd	228	8.4	19.4
Trinity Catholic High, Woodford Green, Essex	LEA mxd	254	4.5	19.3
Parr Wood High Sch, Manchester	LEA mxd	287	4.1	19.3
Ilkley Grammar School, Ilkley, W Yorks	LEA mxd	212	6.0	19.2
Finham Park Sch, Coventry	Vol mxd	187	5.7	19.2
St Nicholas RC High, Hartford, Cheshire	GM mxd	180	7	19
Erpe High Sch, Coventry	Vol mxd	139	8	19
St John Fisher RC High, N Yorks	LEA mxd	112	5	19
Stratford Grammar Sch, Manchester	GM mxd	397	4	19
Redwood Sch, Dursley	Vol mxd	180	5.8	19.0
Blanchard Of Llandaff High Sch, Cardiff	GM mxd	153	5.2	18.6
Goff's Sch, Chesham, Herts	GM mxd	188	8.2	18.5
St Peter's High Sch, Cammelford, Surrey	GM girls	143	8.4	18.5
La Sainte Union Convent Sch, London	LEA mxd	226	5.6	18.5
Yale School, Yale, Hampshire	LEA Boys	198	3.4	18.4
Forest Sch, Wymondley, Berks	LEA mxd	124	5.5	18.3
Thomas Mills High Sch, Framlingham, Suffolk	GM mxd	180	8.8	18.2
Camden High, Weymouth, Dorset	LEA mxd	162	6.2	18.2
Notre Dame Sch, Sheffield	LEA mxd	117	5.3	18.2
Westland High Sch, Congleton, Cheshire	LEA mxd	223	6	18
Hinchbrook Sch, Huntingdon, Cambs	LEA mxd	195	4	18
The Netherhall Sch, Cambridge	Vol mxd	188	4	18
Bishop Stopford Sch, Kettering, Northants	Vol mxd	188	4	18

Compiled by Christina Adams, Suzanne Moshir, Irene Vell and Tim Viles

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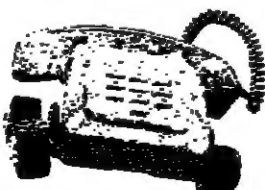
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But many people are

Girl of 7 gains her GCSE in computing

A college run from two rooms in north London has broken records again, reports David Charter

A GIRL aged seven entered the record books yesterday when she became the youngest pupil to achieve a GCSE. Nisha Santhirarajah, a C grade in computing studies, was also the latest extraordinary coup for a college run from two rooms of a house in north London.

Nisha, from Edgware, earned her place in the Guinness Book of Records by studying several evenings a week at the nearby Northwood Tutorial College. After six months' study, she took the examination in July, aged just seven years and four months. Her brother, Neelan, also took the examination, at the age of nine, and scored a grade B.

"Computers are easy to understand, but I found the exam quite hard," Nisha said. "You had to do two projects and answer lots of questions. I made a database of a library and did a break-even analysis."

She said she would wait until she was 16 before taking any more GCSEs, but has already made up her mind that she wants to be a doctor. She praised her tutor, Dr Ronald Ryde, the founder and principal of Northwood Tutorial College. "He is a nice teacher and makes it simple to understand. He tells jokes and

it is fun working with him." Her mother, Rita, a midwife, said she put Nisha under no pressure to carry on with the course or take the examination. "At various times we said she could stop if it was too much, but she seemed to really enjoy it."

Dr Ryde yesterday called for a university for young children to help them to realise their full potential. He also taught the previous record holder for the youngest GCSE pass, Somali Pandya, who obtained a grade E in computer studies in 1993 aged eight years and two months.

The 66-year-old former lecturer at the Polytechnic of North London said he saw no reason why all children should not take GCSEs by the time they were 11. A levels by 14 and first degrees by 17.

Written off as a child as a low achiever, Dr Ryde taught in primary schools in the 1950s before working in the computer industry. He set up the tutorial college 12 years ago and it still occupies two converted rooms in his home and a couple of overflow community centres.

His method of straightforward small-class tutoring is underpinned by a belief that adults place limitations on

children's potential. "The mental resources of society are leaking away badly," he said. "You must have faith in children. They can make mud pies one minute and write computer programs the next."

The theory seems to work. Year after year primary school children pass GCSEs and A levels at his college, with 42 children aged seven to 14 succeeding this year. Last year Alp Bora Tokar passed computer studies A level with a D grade at the age of 12.

"I sincerely believe that children are capable of making great academic strides if

they are motivated," said Dr Ryde, who looks every inch the eccentric professor with his cap, spotted bow tie and tufted sideburns. His pupils are not prodigies; they do no better than their peers in other subjects back at their day schools. Too often they are not being

motivated at school. The children we teach are an example of what the rest of the country could be doing."

Parental support is also very important and is readily given to Dr Ryde's pupils by families, who pay £2,400 for the three terms needed to

prepare for GCSE. Nearly 70 per cent of children come from Asian backgrounds.

Dr Ryde has found himself largely ignored by the educational establishment, though he was delighted recently to be asked to give a guest lecture at a college in Crete. "Children

can do much better than we think. As far as I am concerned, students who go to university are the OAPs of the academic world, having passed their mental peak," he said.

Leading article, page 19
Education, pages 35-39



Nisha Santhirarajah celebrating yesterday with Dr Ronald Ryde, principal of Northwood Tutorial College, who taught her computing studies

Pensioner succeeds at all his age levels

A PENSIONER who left school at 15 was deciding on his twenty-fifth A-level subject yesterday. Terry Tyacke, 71, gained a grade B in sports studies and grade E in philosophy this summer, confirming his position as the holder of the most A levels. His nearest rival has 17 to his 24.

He is planning to take either the new subject of discrete mathematics or general studies, depending on which is offered by Chippenham College near his home in Trowbridge, Wiltshire. He has already run out of courses at Trowbridge College.

Pam Shepherd, his sports studies tutor, said: "It is a theory course and he came into lectures with the other students, who are around 17. They got on really well and had quite a few laughs."

Mr Tyacke, a widower, left school at 15 with no qualifications apart from his entrance examination and became a dockyard apprentice. He took geography, his first A level, in 1972 to encourage his daughter Susan, who was struggling in the subject. He said: "I can't seem to stop doing them. It's a way of life now."

He gained 10 O levels before deciding to concentrate on A levels. He has never failed an O-level chemistry. "That is the only blot on my record."

His A levels include one A grade, in business studies in 1987, and two Bs, in sports studies this year and principles of accounting in 1978.

Spine operation boy passes courage test

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

A 16-YEAR-OLD boy is celebrating passing eight GCSEs which he took while facing a spinal operation, scheduled for three days after the final paper.

Fraser Kennedy, of Dringhouses, York, needed surgery to help to correct Friedrich's ataxia, an incurable genetic disease which attacks the central nervous system. He collected his results from Bootham School, York, with his mother, Deirdre, 41, a nurse.

Fraser said: "I'm delighted with my results, though I expected an A in English and not a B. But it means I can go on to do my A Levels. I put the operation completely out of my mind while I sat my exams. I just concentrated on passing - which I did."

Mrs Kennedy said: "He's a very special boy. We are extremely proud. The operation went well, though he was in intensive care for a week afterwards." Ian Small, her son's headmaster, said: "Fraser is a person of great courage."

Among students of other schools celebrating their successes were John Chapman and Gary Florence, who achieved 13 A-grade GCSEs. They studied at Emmanuel College, Gateshead, where 90 per cent of pupils gained five or more passes above grade C, the threshold of an old O-level. Both boys recorded A's - the recognition given to performance considered a whole grade above A - in



Fraser Kennedy with his mother, Deirdre

seven of their subjects. John Burn, head of the city technology college, said: "Schools generally at the top of the national performance tables at GCSE are from leafy southern suburbs."

"Grammar schools get the best pupils by having them sit an entrance exam and can expect the best results. Now Emmanuel is up there with them and our students have struck a huge blow for the ordinary mixed comprehensive."

At Chilwell Comprehensive in Nottingham, Paul and Jonathan Litton, identical twins, passed ten GCSEs with A grades, nine in the same subjects.

A widow yesterday collected the winnings from her husband's bet on their son's GCSE grades. Martin Watford died of a heart attack in May, aged 44, three days before Andrew sat his GCSEs

at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wakefield. Mr Watford bet £50 on his son's results and his widow Valerie picked up winnings of £450 after Andrew gained nine A grades, including six A's.

Mrs Watford said: "It was obviously traumatic for Andrew when his dad died on the Friday and he was to start his exams on the Monday. I wasn't sure I wanted him to sit his exams, but he was adamant that he was going to."

The youngest pupil to achieve A-grade success was ten-year-old Hugo Whittle, whose success was in mathematics at Clifton Lodge preparatory school in Ealing, west London. Two 11-year-olds recorded A grades: Jessica Parsons, of West Derby, Merseyside, in French and Oliver Taylor, of Oxford, in Spanish.

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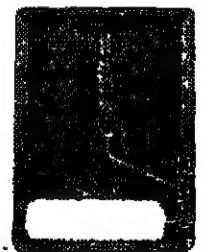
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Phone-free holidays fail the luxury test

Tourism chiefs say seclusion can go too far. Simon de Bruxelles reports

COLIN BATEMAN'S guests pay £810 a week to get away from it all on his sporting estate in the Wye Valley. Thirteen luxury self-catering lodges offer complete seclusion, with virtually every labour-saving appliance known to science — except for a telephone.

Now Mr Bateman's determination that his guests should enjoy their stay undisturbed has led to the establishment being omitted from all the English Tourist Board's official guides. Mr Bateman fell out with the board when its inspectors decided that Wye Lea Country Manor, near Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcester, qualified for only four out of five keys under its rating system.

The reason given was the lack of telephones in the lodges, something Mr Bateman claims is a bonus for his well-heeled guests, who come to escape the pressures of everyday life and indulge instead in salmon fishing, swim-

ming, tennis or golf. Mr Bateman, a millionaire, built the establishment seven years ago, after making his fortune in the West Midlands building deep-fat fryers for the takeaway business.

He said yesterday: "My customers don't want telephones. We cater for people plagued by phones every day

My customers don't want telephones. We cater for people plagued by them every day of their working lives and they're only too happy to escape for a while."

of their working lives and they're only too happy to escape for a while. I can confidently say this is the finest small-scale, high-quality holiday home site in the UK. I will not accept a four-star rating.

The committee that dreamed up these rules should be sacked for incompetence. I am being denied a top rating

because the place offers peace and quiet."

Mr Bateman, 53, insists that the criteria for the ratings must change, not his telephone policy. The board says that until he accepts its rating, Mr Bateman's £2.5 million investment will not be included in the official guide books.

Yesterday the board said

five-star hotels to shame. The grounds offer a mile-long stretch of private salmon and coarse fishing rights on the banks of the Wye. The complex offers a heated indoor pool, floodlit tennis courts, nine-hole putting green, croquet lawn, gym, solarium, full-size snooker room and, of course, stunning views.

Mr Bateman said: "This now has become increasingly bitter. The tourist board tells me no matter how luxurious the place is, I can never have the fifth key unless I install a phone in each room."

"But they're missing the point. We cater for holidays, not business trips. People who have to talk to their businesses have mobile phones, but most want to get away."

"There's a phone for guests to use and most people just call to let their family know they've arrived, and then again when they go home. The facilities here are excellent, but phones in the rooms wouldn't get used. You don't even need



Colin Bateman at the country manor where he says guests can get away from it all in cottages without telephones

a swimming pool to earn five keys. Do they really think a phone is more important than a pool for people wanting a relaxing holiday?"

Mr Bateman, a millionaire who opened the holiday estate with his wife Sally, 48, in 1990, said that they had managed without being in the tourist

guide for this long and would carry on if they had to.

He said: "The tourist board people know they've got it wrong. That's why they're reviewing their policy."

A spokesman for the English Tourist Board said: "We are reviewing the system along with the AA and the

RAC so that in future we all use the same criteria. But that's not to say Mr Bateman will get his fifth key. There is no point having our criteria if we don't stick to them."

"Five keys for self-catering accommodation implies a home from home and we require extras like a washing

machine, hairdryer, and yes, a telephone. Describing a place as five keys but with no phone would make a mockery of the system. If Mr Bateman's business is successful he must be doing the right thing, and if his guests don't want to use telephones they presumably don't mind a four-key rating."

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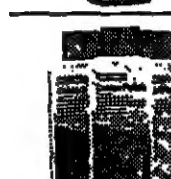
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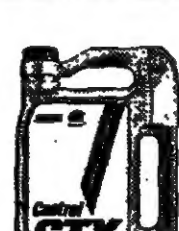
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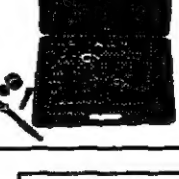
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cult man is convicted of trespass

A German member of a religious cult which invaded a National Trust beach was given a two-year conditional discharge by Truro magistrates after being convicted of trespass yesterday. Horst Dieter Bögel, 41, from Hamburg, had denied the charge. The evangelical group was evicted after camping on the beach at Loe Bar, Cornwall. Three other members were given conditional discharges last week.

Coach charged

Harvey Slater, 31, head coach at Northumberland Lawn Tennis Club, was charged with indecent assault and a serious sex offence against a girl under 16. He had already been suspended by the club.

Jarrow march

A 21-year-old student jumped aboard a moving goods train near Jarrow to escape a gang who had mugged him and forced him to walk four miles along the track at night to get money from a cash machine.

Racism fine

John Duggan, who wrote a racist and abusive letter to a traffic wardens' office in Harrogate, north London, after being given a £40 parking ticket, has been fined £250 and ordered to pay £100 costs.

Girls in tent fire

Two 14-year-old girls were severely burnt when a nylon tent caught fire in a back garden in King's Norton, Birmingham. The girls, who were outside the tent, are in a stable condition in hospital.

Bitter spice

The 17-year-old brother of the Spice Girl Mel C is recuperating after crashing the pop star's £35,000 Mercedes into a lamppost before she had driven it. Paul O'Neill suffered cuts and bruises.

Teletubby jobs

A toy manufacturer has taken on 18 staff to meet demand for furry replicas of Teletubbies, the children's television characters. Golden Bear Products said it had sold tens of thousands of the toys.

Bottom drops out of market in horse nappies

A NAPPY for horses designed to take the toll out of training has been abandoned during trials — much to the chagrin of stable lads.

The invention had been heralded as the most important innovation in stable management in years, likely to bring an end to the boring and back-breaking task of mucking out stables two or three times a day.

Stable lads and girls spend hours shovelling muck in the heat of the summer and cold of winter, but two leading trainers have decided that the nappy is not the answer.

Oliver Sherwood, a National Hunt trainer in Lambourn, has stopped using the reusable £250 nappies, not because they are ineffective or because they are unsavoury to clean, but because the weight puts too much strain on the horse's back.

"We have used them and, although it is a good idea, the weight of the nappy is too heavy after the night. It is too much for the horse's back," Mr Sherwood said.

The nappy is fitted like a conventional horse-rug, with a plastic bag attached underneath to catch the droppings. Racetracks are normally bedded on wood shavings, shredded paper or straw and the droppings and wet bedding removed and replaced.

Peter Walwyn, a flat trainer who took part in the trial, has a string of 38 horses that are mucked out twice daily. He said he favoured traditional methods because of the cost.

He had to pay £120 a week to have the waste removed because it could not be part of a conventional muck heap. "It is costing more to have the manure taken away because it is treated as industrial waste, not agricultural, because the horse is not an agricultural animal."

The nappy was developed in Australia and has been successfully adopted in some racing yards there, where racehorses are not as pampered as their British cousins.

Racing, page 43

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£1,000 to £2,499	4.00%	4.50%	3.80%	3.80%
£2,500 to £4,999	5.25%	5.30%	4.20%	4.20%
£5,000 to £9,999	6.40%	6.55%	5.12%	5.12%
£10,000 and over	6.75%	6.92%	5.40%	5.51%

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Godly nation took comfort from faith

Our modern scorn for 19th-century hypocrisy does grave injustice to an era of altruism, argues John Young

On Sunday, March 30, 1851, the year of the Great Exhibition, a census was held throughout England and Wales to determine what proportion of the population attended church. Although the returns were never precisely enumerated, the overall figure appeared to be about 55 per cent, which many observers found disappointingly low.

There were doubters in plenty, and many of those who dressed up in their Sunday best to lead their families to church or chapel did not conspicuously apply Christian principles to their daily lives. The greatest religious revival since the Middle Ages was undermined by hostility between those who followed different rites of worship.

But there was a general acceptance that Britain was a Christian country, that its laws and customs were based on Christian tradition, and that the pursuit of moral and spiritual values was a necessary antidote to creeping materialism. Agnosticism was tolerated up to a point, particularly among poets, artists and others seen to be outside



handful of public offices. While the Catholics celebrated by building churches and schools in the new urban areas, the Church of England had to come to terms with the fact that its main strength remained in the countryside. It began a crash programme of urban church building.

The Nonconformists, or Dissenters, attracted vast numbers. In Wales, the Midlands and the North of England, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and Unitarians preached judgment, damnation and the urgent need for spiritual renewal, a very different message from the comforting drone of evensong in the shade of immemorial elms. The Church of Scotland found itself abruptly torn apart by a splinter group

which formed its own "free" Church.

Disunited though they were, the Protestant Churches were at one in their suspicion of Catholics, who flourished in such cities as London, Liverpool and Glasgow, and in the Lancashire mill towns. Among intellectuals, the Oxford Movement, the conversion — or desertion — of John Henry Newman and the influence upon Anglicans of the Catholic revival rang alarm bells. The decision to re-establish Catholic dioceses was portrayed as an attempt by the papacy to undermine the monarchy, leading to a series of riots in 1851.

The Christian ethic prevailed at least until the onset of the First World War, which heralded a more cynical age. Many Victorians were undoubtedly dragged into churchgoing by pressures from their employers or the rural squirearchy. But millions derived comfort from their faith and went to their deaths hoping at least that a better world awaited them.

This series is now concluded, but readers wishing to pursue an interest in Victorian Britain can join the Victorian Society, which campaigns to save the architectural heritage of the 19th century. Details from the Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, Bedford Park, London W4 1JT (telephone 0181-994 1019, fax 0181-995 4895).



Majestic in death: the 18ft statue of the Prince Consort awaits regilding as the £14 million conservation of the Albert Memorial in London passes the halfway stage. It was covered in 1990 and work began in 1994; completion is due in 1999

Tomb that embodies the grand order of its age

By ALAN HAMILTON

VICTORIA and Albert's tomb at Frogmore in Windsor Home Park is the most private and peculiar of British royal monuments. Breathing grandeur, it is redolent of the self-confidence, order and family values of its age.

Victoria had always wanted a mausoleum for herself and her husband, having seen those of her continental relatives. Within days of Albert's death in 1861 she had found the ideal site in a sequestered corner of the gardens at Frogmore House, less than a mile from Windsor Castle.

She summoned the architects who had created a mausoleum for her uncle Leopold in Sax-Coburg. They designed a cruciform in the style of a 13th-century Italian church and, on her orders, filled it with an anglicised pastiche of Raphael, regarded by Albert as the greatest painter who had lived.

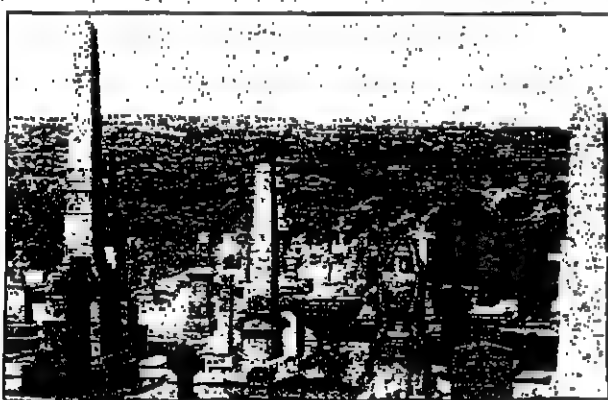
On a massive granite sarcophagus, the recumbent marble effigies of the couple lie side by side. Victoria looking far more youthful than her 82 years at death — hardly surprising as she sat for the sculptor at the time of Albert's death, when she was 42.

Visitors will easily spot the joint where the two sculptures were finally matched. They will also spot a bump in the marble carving of Victoria's shroud, roughly in line with Albert's knees. It is her feet, a reminder that the Empress of India was barely 5ft tall.

Above the main tomb, the central dome rises to 70ft, under which the deceased lie gazing at a firmament of painted clouds and stars. Splendid in ashes and pompous in the grave, the couple are enshrined in a stone model of the grand, unchanging world they set out to create.

The Royal Mausoleum is signposted on the B3021 between Datchet and Old Windsor. Car park available. Pedestrian access only from the Long Walk, Windsor Home Park. Open, with Frogmore House and gardens, on August 23-25, 11-5. Adults £4.50, children £2.50. Tel 01753 868286

Undercliffe lives again as a fitting epitaph to the dead



The past glories of Undercliffe have been restored

One morning in early July 1862, the bustling city of Bradford came to a halt. Shops and businesses closed for the day, blinds were drawn and citizens lined the streets, hats doffed, to watch a grand procession led by uniformed police and firemen. They were followed by councillors, aldermen, magistrates, a hearse drawn by six black horses, seven official mourning coaches and others carrying businessmen, clergy, doctors, and the editor of the *Bradford Observer*.

The occasion was the funeral of Robert Milligan, the first Mayor of Bradford and its former member of Parliament, who was to be buried in

the grandiose Undercliffe cemetery opened eight years earlier. Above his grave was erected a 20ft granite pillar surmounted by a cross — one of the most prominent of the dozens of extravagant monuments which have happily survived decades of neglect and among which the public are welcome to roam today.

Undercliffe can lay claim to be the most spectacular graveyard in Britain. It occupies a 26-acre hilltop site with glorious views across the city to the Pennines and epitomises the Victorian idea that the wealthy and successful should be honoured in death as in life. The monuments commemorate not only many of Brad-

ford's most influential citizens but the wealth of the city itself in its industrial heyday. With its fortunes founded on the wool trade, it was, in the middle years of the century, the fastest-growing city in Britain.

But rapid growth exacted a heavy price. The new working classes lived for the most part in abject squalor: long hours, low wages and dangerous conditions in the mills were compounded by inadequate food, overcrowded housing, filthy air and a lack of sanitation. The parish churchyard was reported full in 1836, and a further 10,000 bodies were dumped in ill-concealed mounds over the next 14 years. New cemeteries such as Under-

cliffe became an urgent necessity. The poor, except for the few able to put a little aside for their funerals, could expect neither ceremony nor epitaph. Thousands lie in unmarked mass graves close to the colonnaded avenues where the last resting place of Swithen Anderton, woolstapler, is surmounted by a scaled-down replica of the Scott Monument in Edinburgh.

Damaged by neglect and vandalism, the cemetery was compulsorily purchased by the city council in 1964 and has since been restored. It also has some new occupants, among them the late MP Bob Cryer. His modern headstone ironically proclaims him a "lifelong iconoclast".

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Queen is welcome in Punjab say Sikhs

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA yesterday invited the Queen to visit any part of the country she chooses during her six-day state visit in October. This is a reversal of remarks by Inder Kumar Gujral, the Prime Minister, who suggested that she should not visit the Sikhs' holy city of Amritsar because of the danger of street demonstrations.

Sikh leaders have been going back on earlier demands that she should apologise for the 1919 massacre of nearly 400 people by Britain's General Dyer, who was later demoted and forced to retire from the army. Sikhs in Britain attempted to murder him in reprisal, but killed a house guest instead.

If she visits Amritsar the Queen will go to the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple, a short walk from Jallianwala Bagh, site of the shootings. It has yet to be decided whether she will visit the city or, if she does so, whether she will go to the park, preserved as a symbol of colonial atrocity.

Mr Gujral said last night that "we do not have any hesitation in her visiting any part of the country". The main thing was that she was an honoured guest and "we do not want any controversy". Government sources said his earlier comment that the Queen should stay away from Amritsar was made off-the-record to a journalist.

His new position echoes the stance of Sikh leaders who earlier demanded that the Queen must apologise for the massacre. They evidently did not anticipate the outcry this would produce from Sikhs in Britain, most of whom have rallied behind the Queen. In India, too, Sikh leaders have criticised those demanding an apology.

Commentators in the Indian press have been appalled that Sikh extremists in Britain have been so widely quoted in

the British press for demanding an apology from the Queen, arguing that they are unrepresentative of grassroots opinion and give a false impression of Sikh sentiments. Commentaries in the Indian press have mostly rejected the idea of an apology.

The Statesman, in an editorial headlined "Apology inappropriate", wrote: "We won our independence in the way we did because the British were a civilised people, although General Dyer was not exactly a shining example. By his lights he was doing his duty, however brutally and blindly he may have acted. If Her Majesty is to apologise, do we match it with an offer of a vote of thanks for the English language, the rule of law and the courts of justice, the credit side of the ledger?"

The Indo-British relationship is enjoying one of its warmest phases. It was never blighted by widespread colonial atrocities and elderly Indians are still inclined to remember the British presence in a positive light. The closeness of Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last Viceroy, and Jawaharlal Nehru, independent India's first Prime Minister, remains a primary influence on the relationship.

Rarely in colonial history has an empire been dismantled with greater willingness or mutual co-operation and, ultimately, friendship. There is plainly no grassroots pressure for an apology from the Queen. A few Sikhs who spoke out on the subject are mostly silent after discovering a widespread feeling that a visit by British royalty would be a proud event for Punjab. Mr Gujral, who stunned British officials by his comments, is attempting to ensure that Indo-British relations are enhanced by a successful visit by the Queen.

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Assassin describes Hani's murder

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG



Hani: his murder nearly led to a racial explosion

AN ASSASSIN told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission yesterday how he fired point-blank into the head and body of Chris Hani, the South African Communist leader.

As Hani's widow, Lumpho, and his daughters stared at him, Janusz Walus told the amnesty committee hearing in Pretoria that he had followed Hani to shops in Boksburg, near Johannesburg, before going back to his house via an alternative route, arriving as Hani pulled into his driveway.

Walus, who had a pistol tucked into the back of his belt, said he called out to Hani because he was reluctant to shoot him in the back. "When he was turning I took out the pistol from the belt and shot the first time into Mr Hani's body," he said. "I shot a second bullet into the head when he fell on the ground, shot twice behind his ears and then got into my car and moved away."

Walus and Clive Derby-Lewis, a right-wing politician, are serving life sentences for the murder of Hani in April 1993 which nearly plunged the

country into widespread racial conflict a year before democratic elections. The commission has powers to grant them amnesty if it is satisfied that they have told the whole truth, that their crime was politically motivated and that they acted on behalf of a political organisation.

Walus told the commission how he had gone to Derby-Lewis's house four days before the assassination to collect a pistol, ammunition and a silencer. He said Hani's name was third on a target list of politicians and journalists. Walus, who fled communist Poland in the early 1980s, said: "We wanted to stop the Communists from using power, which we saw as unavoidable. I hoped that this would mobilise the right wing into resistance action."

Legal wrangling has delayed the hearing which was adjourned until November 24.

Typhoon Winnie kills 140 on Chinese coast

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ONE of the deadliest typhoons to batter China in a decade killed more than 140 people and injured 3,000, with most casualties in homes that collapsed under the force of the storm, officials said yesterday.

Typhoon Winnie slammed into China's eastern coastal province of Zhejiang early on Monday and wreaked havoc across the province for 11 hours, destroying 100,000 homes, mostly in low-lying coastal areas, and flooding fields and damaging dams and sea dykes. Some people were electrocuted when ca-

bles were brought down by the high winds.

A provincial government official said that the storm damaged 1.6 million acres of farmland in Zhejiang province, causing economic losses of 18 billion yuan (£4 billion).

In Hong Kong yesterday, people were bracing themselves for a new tropical storm, the Hong Kong Observatory said. All kindergarten classes were suspended as were hover-ferries services to some outlying islands. Tropical storm Zita was expected to pass about 120 miles south of the special administrative region late yesterday.



A scene from the film *Train to Pakistan*, which has been drastically cut because of its swearwords and nudity

Fickle tastes of censors leave Indian film industry in tatters

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

TRAIN TO PAKISTAN, a film about heroism in Punjab during partition 50 years ago, has been severely cut by Indian censors — the latest in a stream of unpredictable interventions that have left the world's largest film industry in turmoil.

The film is based on the best-selling 1956 book of the same title, by Khushwant Singh. The main objection is to scenes of two men's bottoms. Such objections weigh heavier with the censors than rape scenes, extreme violence and depictions of sexual intercourse, albeit with clothes on, all of which are routinely passed.

Mr Singh, 84, said the film was sensitively done and was "better than my book". Most Hindi films were "violent and grossly ugly", he said. Song and dance routines were ex-

tremely explicit but, the only thing censored from them was swearing. "It all depends on some stupid little deputy secretary in the Government, who often does not even read the script. It is safer for him to say no rather than risk questions being asked in Parliament," Mr Singh said.

Mr Singh said censors were not above accepting bribes to reinstate cuts and had been told that some of them made a living from the practice.

Pamela Rooks, the director of *Train to Pakistan*, has appealed to Inder Kumar Gujral, the Prime Minister. The censors' appeals tribunal is also considering the cuts.

The Indian film industry, particularly Bollywood, is financed largely by black money, often from Bombay mobsters attempting to "launder" ill-gotten cash and hence is at the

mercy of the underworld. Ms Rooks, 59, said: "The film industry is unofficially recognised as the fourth largest industry in India, but we are not even officially an industry."

She had struggled to raise the relatively small budget of £250,000. Successful actors, producers and directors in Bombay regularly pay off the underworld, and some of those refusing to do so have been killed or attacked. No film-maker in India can buy insurance, so dangerous and unpredictable is the business.

Even if a film survives the mobsters, it faces the even more capricious intervention of official censors.

Roula Mendonca, Bombay's new police commissioner, yesterday promised to take her department against "gangster extortionists and criminals" in the wake of attacks on film-makers and industrialists.

try. We cannot go to banks for money or get subsidies and other benefits."

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Russia clings to Mir as symbol of glorious past

WHEN two Russian cosmonauts today begin a series of difficult and dangerous space walks to repair the Mir space station, the fate of one of the nation's last symbols of its greatness will be in their hands.

To the critical eye, trying to repair the 120-tonne orbiting station may appear to be a futile and reckless exercise which endangers the lives of the three-man crew and wastes precious funding on a programme which has outlived its scientific usefulness. Over the past six months Mir's accident-prone history should have led to the Russians cutting their losses and sending the 107 ft spacecraft crashing into the Pacific Ocean, its intended final resting place in two years' time.

But Mir is more than just Russia's last cosmic outpost. It is the world's only permanent manned station and, for Russians, proof that they are still a world power.

A song by Vladimir Vysotsky, the popular 1970s Russian singer and actor, described how the Soviet Union would remain the world's leader as long as it sent rockets into space, dammed Siberia's rivers and dominated ballet.

However, in the 11 years

The space station should have been scrapped, but the Kremlin has nothing to put in its place, Richard Beeston writes

since Mir was launched, these and other pillars of Soviet might have crumbled. Communist rule collapsed and was soon followed by the Soviet empire. The military was defeated and humiliated by Chechen guerrillas. The scientific community has become impoverished by a state unable to fund it. Even its athletes no longer dominate the gold medals table and the Bolshoi Ballet is regularly panned by the critics.

While Russians may have grown used to the sequence of setbacks, not to mention the social and economic turmoil, the Government is particularly sensitive about losing the symbols of greatness because it has failed to find alternatives.

Even in last year's presidential campaign, President Yeltsin won re-election by concentrating on the failures of communism rather than what modern Russia stands for. The principles of the free market and ideals of democra-

cy have been tarnished by gangster capitalism and the growing disparity between a super rich minority and the impoverished majority. Today Russians only seem united marking the anniversary of the Red Army's victory over Hitler or when brought together by the death of a cultural hero, such as Yuri Nikulin, the country's most popular comedian, who died yesterday.

In its search for a new ideology, the Kremlin has flirted with the ideas of reintroducing the monarchy, strengthening the power of the Russian Orthodox Church and erasing the last symbol of communism by removing Lenin's mausoleum and burying the Bolshevik leader.

But the authorities are afraid of re-igniting the darker side of pre-revolution Russia, with its anti-Semitic and imperialist instincts. However critical Mr Yeltsin may be of Nato, he still wants Russia to be a respected member of the community of nations.

Until the leadership can decide what kind of country it wants to build, the chances are that it will cling to the old symbols it has left. That means Mir, and its long-suffering cosmonauts, will continue to do their duty.

Arms shake-up: Mr Yeltsin yesterday issued a decree ordering a shake-up of the arms trade, removing the head of Rosvooruzheniye, the state firm controlling 97 per cent of Russia's weapons exports. It will be replaced by a new organisation, with the same name, to be headed by Yevgeni Ananyev, 48.

A second decree strengthens state control over the arms trade, giving the right to trade arms to two other firms and to specific manufacturers.

Belarus defies order to free Russian newsmen

Moscow: Russia and Belarus engaged in a war of words yesterday after the Kremlin warned Minsk it risked damaging close ties unless it freed television journalists from Russia's main station (Richard Beeston writes).

Less than three months after the two signed a "Union Treaty", the dictatorial behaviour of Alexander Lukashenko, the Belarusian leader, appeared destined to wreck the alliance.

The dispute erupted last month when three journalists crossed the Belarusian border to

show how poorly guarded it was. A second three-man crew were held earlier this month. They all were trying to show that slack border controls encouraged smuggling into Russia. The allegations angered Mr Lukashenko who threw them into jail, and closed down their Minsk office on Wednesday.

Yesterday, the Kremlin demanded that Belarus free the journalists by the end of the week. Mr Lukashenko refused, saying he would not give in to "blackmail" and demanded a formal apology for the threatening language.

Nato targets Karadzic TV link

FROM THE WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

BRITISH troops with Nato in Republika Srpska, who yesterday were still guarding Banja Luka's police stations, may be deployed to take control of a television transmitter to break Radovan Karadzic's monopoly of the state broadcasting system.

His control of the transmitter, in the Kozara mountain range between Banja Luka

and Prijedor, has helped ensure that many Bosnian Serbs have received a skewed version of the political gains made by President Plavic over the past few days.

Srpska Radio and Television has failed to show a single image of the substantial arms cache found in Banja Luka's central police station, an arsenal that would have

enabled police loyal to Dr Karadzic to mount a coup against Mrs Plavic. Instead the broadcasters have shown pictures of British "occupation forces" evicting Serb policemen from their stations. Television commentary described Mrs Plavic as a "renegade" and a "quising of the West".

Letters, page 19



Leni Riefenstahl's portrait of a Nuba tribe member dominates the show which opened in Hamburg yesterday

Protesters try to stop show by Hitler's favourite film-maker

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

DEMONSTRATORS yesterday picketed a photographic exhibition by Hitler's favourite film-maker, Leni Riefenstahl, in an attempt to stop the creeping rehabilitation of the director.

Frau Riefenstahl, who celebrates her 95th birthday today, has been virtually boycotted in Germany since the Second World War, because of the way her film, *Triumph of the Will*, and her documentary account of the 1936 Olympics were used by the Nazi propaganda machine. Since the war, she has concentrated on still photography: of Nuba tribesmen and women on the Nile.

No cultural official attended the showing of her photographs, the first ever in postwar Germany. Most Hamburg gallery dealers refused to touch her work, and

her photographs — stills from the pre-war films alongside her less political pictures — were hung in a rundown district, just opposite a half-way house for heroin addicts. Outside, demonstrators from the Auschwitz Committee protested against "fascist art". A banner denounced the director as "Hitler's photographer: 1936 Propaganda; 1997 Profit". Her photographs are on sale for about £1200 each.

The controversy about Frau Riefenstahl, it seems, will not ebb despite her advanced age. "There is a minority which wants to destroy me," she said last night, "but they cannot wipe out my name. My films and books will stay on after my death." She insists that she was always an apolitical woman, and was never a member of the Nazi party. She was commissioned to



Riefenstahl directed Nazi propaganda film

make films for the Nazi party and caused a sensation with *Triumph of the Will*, a celebration of Hitler's leadership as revealed at the annual party congress in Nuremberg in September, 1934.

The romantic depiction of Hitler — she showed him approaching Nuremberg by "plane through fluffy clouds" — and the torches of the first night of the rally and the thunderous shout of *Seig Heil!* — have made the film a classic of propaganda as well as of innovative film technique. Frau Riefenstahl was hypnotised by Hitler, saying that she "felt the earth opening up" when she first heard the German leader speak. "Close up, his fascination was even stronger than on the podium," she said in an interview this week. "Hitler had a magic effect on people."

Vandals show no remorse over Rome fountain

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE three vandals who caused uproar both inside and outside Italy when they broke off a piece of a fountain in the Piazza Navona by the Baroque sculptor Bernini remained unrepentant yesterday.

The ringleader, Sebastiano Intili, 43, who did the most damage, said he would sue the city council for £4,000 in compensation because he had slipped and hurt his foot while trying to climb up one of the sea monsters in the fountain. "All we did was go into the fountain to have a swim," Signor Intili defiantly told police. "We always used to bathe in it when we were kids."

The three are all unemployed men from depressed Rome suburbs with criminal records for drug dealing and petty crime. The authorities promised yesterday to repair the fountain within a month, but the incident has sparked off a passionate debate on how to protect monuments in a country which is in effect a vast open air museum.

Francesco Rutelli, the Mayor of Rome, said more than 20

All we did was go for a swim. We always used to bathe in it when we were kids

million tourists visited Rome a year, "and we cannot militarise the city". Some Italian art experts had suggested using the army to protect works of art such as fountains and statues. The mayor did not rule out forming volunteer civilian "anti-vandalism squads" to guard publicly displayed works of art, as well as increased use of alarms and video cameras.

Mario Serio, head of Cultural Heritage in Rome, said electronic surveillance was difficult because works of art were often in or near historic buildings which did not easily lend themselves to modern technology.

Francis Haskell, Emeritus Professor of the History of Art at Oxford, told *La Stampa* that "even if you mobilised the entire American and Russian armies combined, you could not protect everything".

The incident caused outrage not only because it damaged one of Rome's best loved works of Baroque art but also because the city's fountains are regarded as almost sacred. Municipal regulations dating back several centuries forbid people to put so much as a hand or foot in the waters.

'Young' Pope flies into Paris dispute

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE POPE arrived in France for the start of a four-day visit yesterday, to be greeted by the President, thousands of young Roman Catholics and a bitter dispute over abortion.

The Pope, who is 77, appeared frail but cheerful as he arrived at Orly airport outside Paris where President Chirac headed the reception committee. On the plane from Rome he told journalists: "I feel young."

Several hundred thousand young pilgrims gathered on the Champ de Mars beneath the Eiffel Tower to welcome the Pope, as the American singer Dee Dee Bridgewater sang *Oh! Happy Days*. The highlight of the visit will be an open air Mass at Longchamp racetrack on Sunday, marking the end of the week-long World Youth Festival.

After travelling by helicopter to Les Invalides in central Paris, the Pope drove in his "popemobile" the short distance to the Elysee Palace through cheering crowds on his first visit to the French capital since 1980.

As the Pope touched down in France, dozens of protesters described by the police as "anti-abortion commandos" forced their way into Broussais Hospital in the capital. They were dispersed by police without arrests.

The abortion issue is expected to loom large today when the Pope visits the tomb of Jérôme Lejeune, who was a celebrated geneticist, a friend of the Pope, a Vatican adviser and a vigorous opponent of abortion. The French Family Planning organisation called the visit to Lejeune's grave "a

provocation". However, on Wednesday a group of 50 Catholics, calling themselves "young survivors of abortion" staged a sit-in at a hospital near Longchamp.

Despite dwindling religious enthusiasm in France and growing scepticism over church teachings on sexuality and abortion, organisers of the World Youth Festival say they are confident that at least half a million people will attend Sunday's Mass. "Never have so many young people converged on our capital," M Chirac told the Pope at the Elysee reception. "We will never forget your message of love, dignity, sharing and hope."

Only about six million of the 45 million Catholics in France attend church regularly and even before leaving Rome the Pope conceded, in a rare newspaper interview, that the French Catholic Church was losing ground.

Six bodies found in French silo rubble

BY BEN MACINTYRE

FIREMEN pulled six bodies from the rubble of a grain silo that exploded in southwest France, leaving little hope that any of the five workers still missing since the disaster would be found alive.

Among the 11 victims of the blast at the river port of Blaye near Bordeaux were seven employees of the cereal company Sembla, a lorry driver, a ship owner, a site overseer and a local fisherman.

The explosion, on Wednesday morning, brought one of the 100 ft grain silos crashing

down on the storage company office, burying the victims under tonnes of concrete and grain. Two more silos were badly damaged.

One injured man was pulled from the rubble shortly after the blast, but rescue workers said the mass of grain in the wreckage made it unlikely that sufficient pockets of air had remained to prevent the suffocation of those inside.

Officials said the explosion may have been caused by inflammable dust particles, or by gas, caused by grain fermentation, being ignited by static electricity.

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Britain says Montserrat offer is final

Short attacks 'crazy'
compensation claims
and spells out terms
of relocation deal

By DAVID ADAMS
IN BRADEN, MONTSERRAT
AND GLEN OWEN

MONTSERRATIANS began registering yesterday for a voluntary evacuation of their volcano-stricken island as part of a plan organised by Britain's Department for International Development and the local Government.

But hours after two registration venues opened there were few takers. As the process gradually got under way, a crowd of angry residents protested outside the office of Bertrand Osborne, the Chief Minister of Montserrat, calling for his resignation.

Many islanders are angry over a financial aid package, which they deem as insufficient, to help them to relocate temporarily to other Caribbean islands and Britain.

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, denounced yesterday the "crazy" amounts being claimed by lobby groups on the island and said adults who want to leave for another Caribbean island would receive £2,400 each, equivalent to six months' average earnings on the island. Those aged under 18 will receive £600.

If islanders opt to travel to Britain, the Government will

pay their fare, waive work permit regulations and allow them to claim income support or housing benefit.

The compensation package is to come from the £6.9 million aid programme announced last month, which was initially designed to support a long-term rebuilding of the island. There is little need of that now.

Ms Short said she hoped her announcement would quell the growing anger on the island. Interviewed from London by Montserrat's ZJB Radio she denied that the Government had been "hardy" in dealing with the crisis.

In the wake of warnings by scientists that the Soufrière Hills volcano could erupt again at any time, the islanders, who have lived with the uncertainty for two years, resigned themselves to registering to evacuate and joined weary lines.

At one evacuation centre about 50 mainly elderly people stood patiently in line. Gwendolyn Farrell said: "Like prodigal sons we are returning to our Mother England. I was trying to hold-out, but I can't take it any more." She was unclear about what awaited her in England. "I have nobody there and I don't have any cash."



Ash-smothered molten rock forms a "delta" as it flows into the Caribbean after another eruption from the Soufrière Hills volcano on the island of Montserrat yesterday.

Island 'likely to rise from ashes'

By GLEN OWEN

SCIENTISTS who have studied the record of volcanic islands believe that Montserrat will rise from the ashes of Soufrière Hills.

In 1902, the neighbouring Caribbean island of Martinique was devastated when Mt Pelée blew its top. St Pierre, the town which lived in its shadow, saw its population cut from 28,000 to one — a prisoner held in the town's dungeon.

Within a few years the devastated area was being repopulated, and the tropical rainforest which had been stripped from the hills was thriving afresh. The island, a French département, now has a population of more than 325,000.

Professor Steven Sparks, the chief scientist at the Montserrat

Volcano Observatory, says Montserrat is also likely to revive as soon as the eruptions stop. "We expect the volcano to continue erupting for several years yet, but assuming there is not a catastrophic event, the island is big enough for life to continue in some form in the north," he said, adding that once it had stopped rumbling they would need to allow a full while to work out whether it

was safe to return to the ash-covered south.

"Life could return even if the whole island ends up being affected. Montserrat has the same tropical environment as Martinique, and so the vegetation would thrive in the same way. We are already seeing green shoots peeking through the ash on sides of the volcano."

Islanders caught in the path

US pledges help

Charlotte Amalie: The US Government has agreed to allow some people leaving Montserrat to go to the US Virgin Islands, according to Roy Schneider, the Governor here.

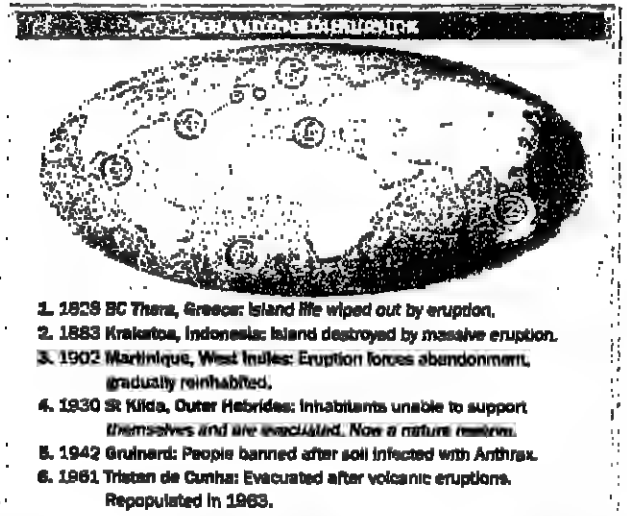
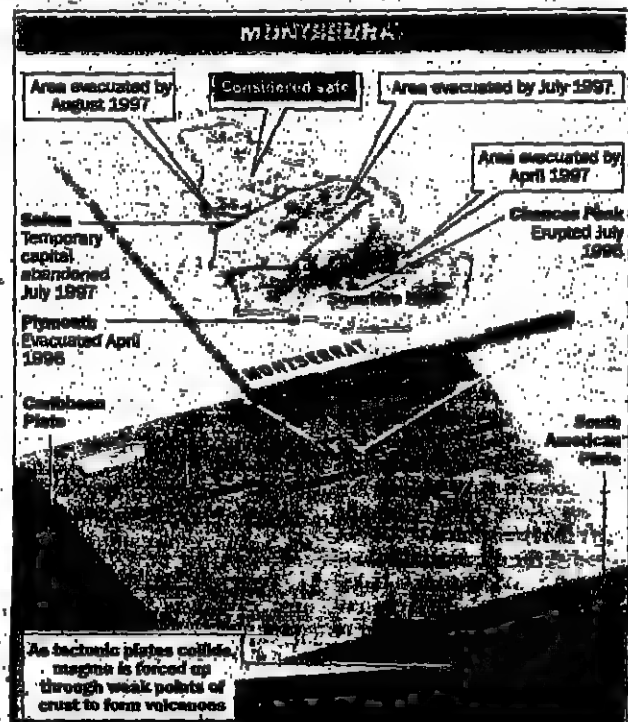
Residents could enter the Virgin Islands with a temporary visitor's visa, he said.

Arrangements were under way to allow any refugee children to attend local public schools, Mr Schneider said.

Doreen Christian-Green, the Virgin Islands' delegate to Congress, said the State Department had agreed to expedite visa requests through its embassy in Barbados.

of the volcano's pyroclastic flows are unlikely to survive for long. If they manage to avoid inhaling the 700C (1300F) gas, they are likely to be suffocated under the fast-moving, dense clouds of ash which now blanket the south of the island.

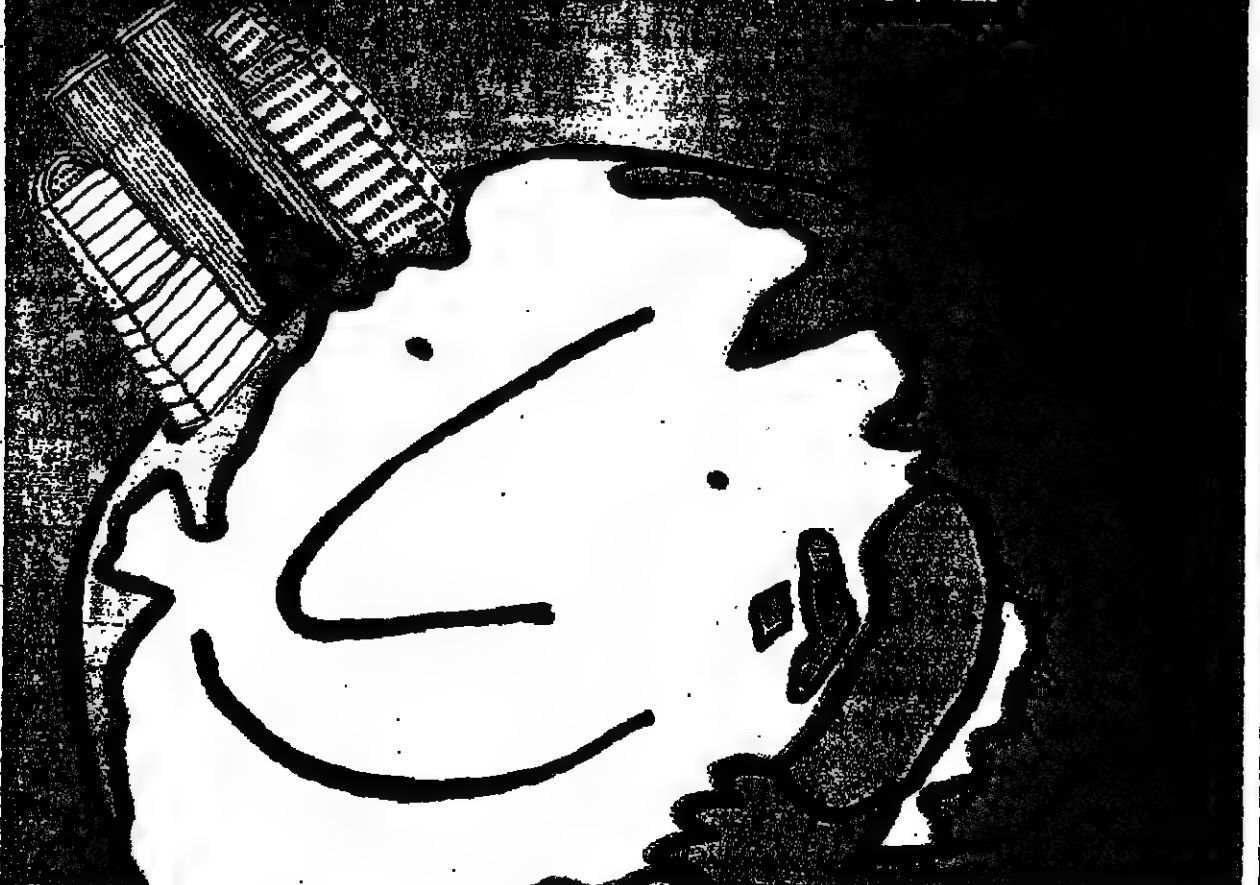
The scientists point to the Canary Islands, where a series of eruptions has left large volcanic deposits — the most recent striking Tenerife in 1909 — without threatening its viability. They have built around the affected areas and offer them as tourist attractions. "In time, the Montserradians will be able to build on top of the flows," says Richard Luckett, a geologist on the island. "All of the river valleys in the south have been filled in by the ash, but the climate will just naturally create new ones."



1. 1828 BC Thera, Greece: Island life wiped out by eruption.
2. 1883 Krakatoa, Indonesia: Island destroyed by massive eruption.
3. 1902 Martinique, West Indies: Eruption forces abandonment, gradually repopulated.
4. 1830 St Kitts, Outer Hebrides: Inhabitants unable to support themselves and are evacuated. Now a nature reserve.
5. 1942 Guernsey: People banned after soil infected with Anthrax.
6. 1961 Tristan da Cunha: Evacuated after volcanic eruptions. Repopulated in 1963.

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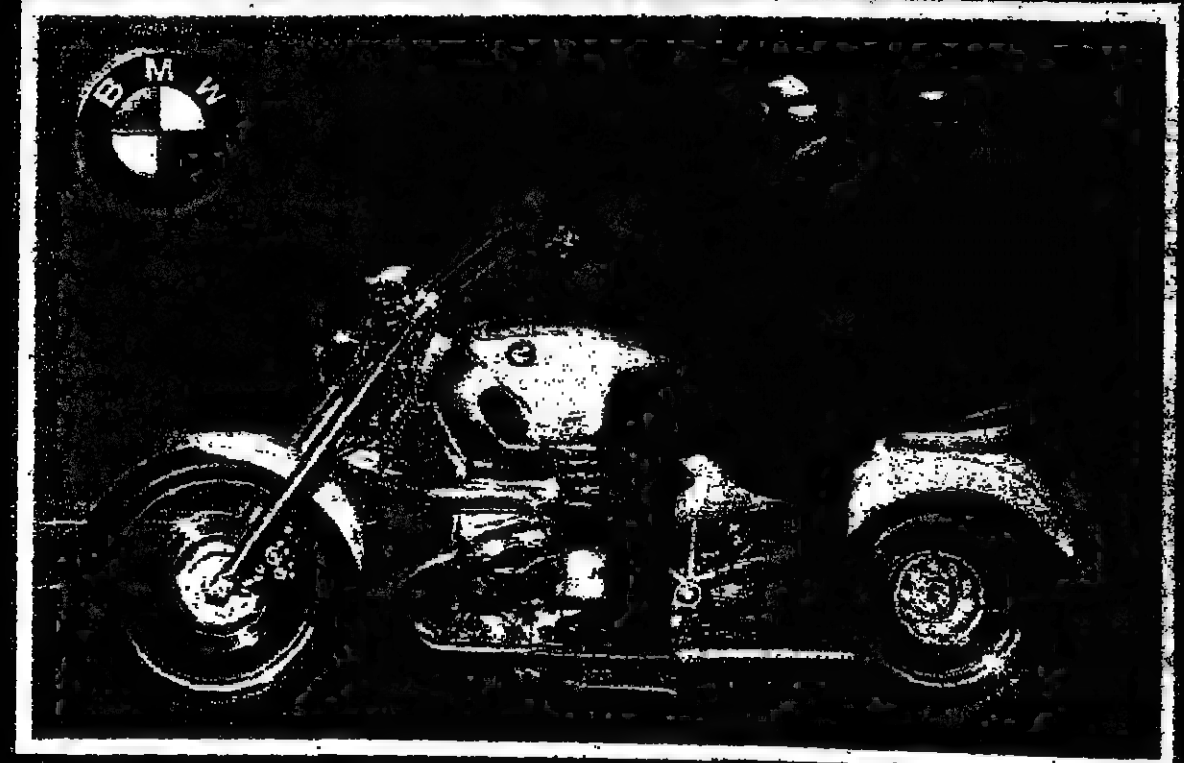
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Clinton backer gained access to Oval Office

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE chairman of Federal Express was granted a meeting with President Clinton in the Oval Office when his company was seeking a change in American policy towards Japan and had donated large sums to the President's re-election campaign.

In the latest damaging disclosure involving irregular funding to the Democratic Party last year, Bob Woodward, the celebrated investigative journalist, reported yesterday that Frederick Smith met Mr Clinton for 45 minutes to discuss a dispute with Tokyo that was costing Federal Express \$100 million (£62.8 million) a year in lost revenue. The unusual tête-à-tête was opposed by Laura D'Andrea Tyson, the President's most senior economic adviser, but her anxiety was stifled by Mack McLarty, Mr Clinton's first White House Chief of Staff who had become a key link with business.

During an eight-month period before and after the encounter, the company contributed \$275,000 to the Democratic National Committee, suggesting that Mr Smith may have first tried to gain White House access and subsequently tried to influence the President on Asian policy. Mr Smith, in the course of the conversation last August, urged the President to impose sanctions on the Japanese

Government. He told Mr Clinton that Tokyo's closed-door trading policy had prevented Federal Express, one of America's leading package carriers, from delivering its cargo from Japan to other lucrative markets in Asia, including China.

Although sanctions were not imposed as a result, Mr Smith's easy access to the Oval Office with no competitors present has brought renewed embarrassment to Mr Clinton and is certain to provoke questions from Republicans when Congress returns next month. Mr Smith and White House officials denied any connection yesterday between the meeting and contributions made to the Democratic Party.

Larry Davis, the White House special counsel, said the general rule was to avoid such meetings, which in themselves were unusual.

"I can say with some certainty that Mr McLarty rarely set up meetings between the President and business leaders," he said. "We just don't know how this and other meetings came to be."

Mr Clinton understood that American business and foreign policy were being undermined by Japan. But the President told Mr Smith: "If I impose sanctions during the presidential campaign, they would think I was grandstanding for political purposes."

We are committed to solving this problem."

What has made the meeting even more noteworthy is that American negotiators are entering talks with Japanese officials next week to discuss flight restriction issues. Mr Smith claims that the United States will be presenting its toughest case to date and he believed it was a sign that Mr Clinton was delivering on his promise.

According to White House records, the President had tried to call Mr Smith four months before the meeting, but it is unclear whether contact was being established to solicit funds. Mr Clinton has said he made no fundraising calls from the White House, which are illegal.



Megan Smith, the first of 30 women, endures being yelled at by drill masters at the start of the initiation ritual at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. The first women in the institute's 158 years were among about 460 freshmen, or "rats", who began the six-month ordeal by enduring insults screamed in their faces on the "rat line". They were allowed in after the institute spent months in courts unsuccessfully defending its all-male policy.

Women face the 'rat line'

The students will live in spartan barracks under a harsh system of discipline designed to test their physical, mental and emotional limits. The institute says the process breaks down incom-

ing cadets and rebuilds them as model citizen soldiers. One cadet, Erin Clauch, 18, seemed on the verge of tears doing push-ups and taking verbal abuse. By last night, 24 hours after the training started, one woman had dropped out and so had six of the men cadets. (AP)

WORLD SUMMARY

London invitation to Israel

Israel has been invited to join the Commonwealth after a lunch meeting in London between Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, and Moshe Raviv, the Israeli ambassador.

"The feeling was that if the Palestinians can do it, why shouldn't we?" a diplomatic source said, noting that Yasser Arafat had already applied for Commonwealth membership for his Palestinian Authority. Today's *Jewish Chronicle* says that the move should be greeted warmly.

Rwanda killings

Washington: Hundreds of unarmed civilians were slaughtered in Rwanda's Gisenyi region this month, probably by government troops, Human Rights Watch Africa reported. (AFP)

Drug turncoats

Washington: Mexican drug cartels are hiring former Green Berets and US counter-intelligence officers to subvert American anti-drug operations, Silvestre Reyes, a Democratic congressman, said.

Jail for King

Los Angeles: Rodney King, whose beating by police sparked widespread riots here in 1992, is serving a 90-day prison sentence for a domestic violence offence, authorities said. (AP)

Rare flu death

Hong Kong: A three-year-old boy has been killed by a strain of influenza never seen before in humans. The boy died after contracting the virus identified as "Influenza A of H4N1 strain", found in birds. (AP)

Monkeys in peril

Rio de Janeiro: Police said a fire which threatened a colony of 350 endangered lion monkeys and destroyed a sixth of the Poco das Antas national reserve may have been caused by arson. (AFP)

Dreamtime rule

Sydney: A couple won the right to refuse a post-mortem examination on their child, 12, because his spirit would not enter the "Dreamtime" of the Aborigines' spiritual and cultural belief. (Reuters)

Double trouble

Sofia: A young newly wed Bulgarian couple will seek a divorce after medical tests showed they are twins. They were raised in an orphanage and adopted by different families. (AFP)

QC blames leaks on Singapore leaders

FROM CHRIS LYDGATE IN SINGAPORE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF



Corman: asked court to dismiss libel case

GEORGE CORMAN QC yesterday said Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister of Singapore, and Lee Kuan Yew, his predecessor, "shot themselves in the foot" by releasing accusations over which they are now seeking legal damages.

Mr Corman called for the High Court to dismiss the case. He said the two leaders were responsible for the publication of police reports accusing them and other officials of criminal conspiracy and brought whatever damage resulted down on themselves. "The real loss has been self-inflicted," he said.

He said that members of the ruling party appeared to be seeking extra penalties because of adverse press coverage of the trial of the veteran opposition politician J.B. "Ben" Jeyaretnam. Mr Corman said that Thomas Shields QC, for the plaintiffs, had telephoned the previous evening to say he would be relying on newspaper reports of the trial to seek aggravated damages from Mr Jeyaretnam.

Mr Shields told the court yesterday that newspaper readers might receive the impression that, rather than Mr Jeyaretnam, it was in fact Singapore's democracy that was on trial, and that "behind the scenes, pulling all the strings, was the plaintiff himself."

Mr Corman's aggressive defence, in-

6 The plaintiffs made a considered and conscious decision to publish the very reports which they claimed had damaged their reputation

cluding Tuesday's three-hour interrogation of Mr Goh, has generated international headlines, spurred on by his suggestion that Singapore's leaders used libel suits as a means of stifling their political opponents.

Mr Corman defended his tough cross-examination, insisting he was "entitled to

canvass these issues in court."

Mr Jeyaretnam, 71, is facing eight libel suits filed by 11 leading members of the ruling People's Action Party, including Mr Goh and Mr Lee.

Mr Corman, in his closing argument, reminded the court that during cross-examination the Prime Minister testified that he was the one who had authorised the release of the police reports to the press, not Mr Jeyaretnam.

The plaintiffs, Mr Corman said, "made a considered and conscious decision to publish the very reports which they claimed had damaged their reputation. That fact was unknown to the learned judge who awarded them \$600,000 (£380,000) in damages," he said. "But it is not unknown to Your Honour."

Mr Corman argued that the decision "does render a claim for damages rather hollow". He also said that Mr Goh had been "economical with the truth".

Mr Shields presented a much less dramatic closing argument. Against the political backdrop of Singapore, he said, Mr Jeyaretnam's words were "incapable of innocent meaning". He will continue his closing argument today.

US court upholds sex offenders law

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A CONTROVERSIAL law that obliges local authorities to inform residents when a convicted sex offender moves to a neighbourhood came into effect across America yesterday after a federal court ruled that it was not unconstitutional.

Known as "Megan's Law", the statute has aroused interest in Britain, where less stringent Home Office guidelines on sex offenders take effect on September 1.

Megan's Law, enacted in New Jersey in 1994 and in all other American states soon after, has been on hold as a result of a legal challenge by civil liberties groups. Its enactment came after the rape and murder of a seven-year-old girl called Megan Kanka, in Hamilton Township, New Jersey, by Jesse Timmendequas.

a twice-convicted sex offender who lived in the house next to hers. The neighbours were not aware of Timmendequas's past. He has since been sentenced to death.

Civil liberties groups challenged Megan's Law on the ground that it inflicted extra punishment on convicted sex offenders after they had served their prison sentence.

However, the United States Court of Appeals, in a 2-1 ruling, said: "The fundamental premise of Megan's Law is that registration and carefully tailored notification can enable law enforcement agencies and those likely to encounter a sex offender to be aware of a potential danger and to stay vigilant against possible re-abuse. This is not an unreasonable premise."

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Francine and Michael Filice, whose house, now up for sale, was once occupied by the Grateful Dead

Auction puts price tag on 'summer of love'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THIRTY years after shrouding the city in a haze of drugs and incense, San Francisco's "summer of love" is to be remembered as much for commerce as love. Three hundred pieces of hippy memorabilia are to be sold off.

The main item, with a starting price of \$990,000 (£620,000), is 710 Ashbury Street which the late Jerry Garcia, lead singer of the Grateful Dead, once shared with the rest of the band. The current occupants, Michael and Francine Filice, bought it in 1972 for \$55,000.

Other items in the auction include a Grateful Dead "medicine bag" used by original Deadheads to carry drugs (expected price: \$1,500-\$2,000), a nude photograph of Janis Joplin and two postcards from John Lennon and Yoko Ono to Huey Newton, leader of the Black Panther movement.

Leading article, page 19

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Business Loan Preferential and Farm Business Loan Preferential	0.87	10.44	Unauthorised	2.00	24.00
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			£100,000+	5.17	5.17
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			£1,000+	4.35	4.31
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			£5,000+	2.90	2.32
			£500+	2.70	2.16
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The art of breaking an engagement

Julian Champkin on why breaking an engagement can be a minefield of modern etiquette and potentially ruinous litigation

In the Victorian novel, the phrase "This man is worse than a murderer!" would ring round the London club. And what vile crime had the man committed? He had been engaged to be married; and he broke off the engagement.

Today, Kelly Fisher says she was engaged to Dodi Fayed. Mr Fayed says she wasn't. Miss Fisher says she will sue. Then she says she won't. It is all much more complicated than it was in Anthony Trollope's day.

But in moments of passion, even an honourable man can find that the flesh is weak and the tongue careless. The unintended engagement is a situation any man can find himself in — especially on holiday. The tropical night, the moon on the water, the sampans drifting, the clouds buzzing like chainsaws and a woman on the balcony beside you... I seem to remember having been there myself, and only great strength of mind and control of speech prevented a possible Dodi-esque disaster.

In Trollope's *The Small House at Allington* — the entire plot of which concerns a broken engagement — the guilty man is cut at his club and assaulted at a railway station by members of the public outraged at what he has done. It is unlikely that any of Mr Fayed's friends will cut him if he has, in fact, broken any engagement. It will be deemed just one of those things. Meanwhile, Miss Fisher's theatrical and televised

tears only mask the fact that a true broken engagement can still be as traumatic and hurtful as ever.

How is a girl to know whether or not she is engaged these days? And, having made the engagement, how does the man, or woman, break it so that both sides, and their friends, know it has been broken? And is the woman, as Miss Fisher apparently in-

ter was furious. And so were large sections of mine. The guests had to be hurriedly uninvited, which was embarrassing for my parents, who had to do the job because I was too tearful, and most of what we had booked still had to be paid for.

But possibly what upset them most was that, two weeks later, Charlotte crept quietly off and married the man in a register office, in the presence of just two witnesses.

"It can be difficult to distinguish normal pre-marriage collywobbles from really not wanting to go through with it," says Judy Cunningham, director of London Marriage Guidance. "And as in a divorce, the feelings of guilt tend to hang around the wrong person."

He may have been a louse, he may have been untrustworthy, you may have discovered — in the nick of time — that he had a philandering record as long as your arm; but the remorse and the feeling that it is you who have betrayed him are not lessened.

Many people — male and female — chicken out of telling their intended that their intentions have changed. "It is probable that a fair number of marriages, happy or otherwise, exist only because one party lacked the courage to break off the engagement," says Ms Cunningham.

Doing it face to face is the only honourable way to break the news. But it is hard, and the "Dear John" letter has, understandably, been more



Kelly Fisher wearing the ring given to her by Dodi Fayed. According to *Debut*, it is bad manners to keep it

popular — traditionally to be received in some far-flung corner of Empire by a young man serving his country, whose stiff upper lip was permitted, for a moment, to tremble. These days, the telephone call seems less cruel, but is still safe, antiseptic and distancing. "I broke off my

engagement by phone," says one who has been through that particular mill. "I have to admit that it was transatlantic phone: the man was in America at the time."

"But the distance did not help: he got on the next plane home, and pleaded with me, on his knees." Which did not make the situation any easier. A verbal promise is, as they say, not worth the paper it is written on. A woman knows she is really engaged only when she has a ring to prove it. Which raises the question: Must you return the ring if the

engagement comes to an end? In the old days, it was possible, by studying the fate of the ring, to work out who had jilted whom. Any newspaper announcement — "The marriage arranged between Miss Jane Smith and Mr Aloysius Jones will not now take place" — was always heartbreakingly discreet. No explanations were given, ever. The charitable assumed that the girl had changed her mind — weak woman was permitted, just about, that intimacy. The uncharitable assumed that the man was a cad.

But if she jilted him, she had to give back the ring — perhaps by throwing it at his feet. If he was the guilty party, she kept it.

Today, it is deemed bad manners for her to keep the ring in any circumstances," says John Wheatley, of *Debut's* *Peerage*, surely the arbiter of modern manners. "Some may feel she is within her rights to hold on to it if the man behaved in a particularly caddish fashion. But in such a case, she probably would not want to keep it anyway."

"But all wedding gifts re-

ceived from friends and relations and already dispatched must be returned to the donor." That is, after all, only reasonable. "With it, you can send a printed card, saying the ceremony is cancelled." Or you could try a less formal thank-you note, possibly along the lines of: "Aloysius and I are very fond of each other, but after mature consideration have decided that we are not the life partners each of us needs..." The phrase "still good friends" could come into it, too — it is tedious to describe the person you were about to marry, in a thank-you letter, as a lying, shiftless rascal.

In the United States, Ms Fisher seems to have failed to provide herself with the pre-nuptial legal agreement so

Face to face is the only decent way to end it

necessary to the imperilled young maiden at large in a predatory world. It would undoubtedly have helped her case. In Britain, at any rate, she can no longer sue for her broken heart.

The responsibilities of a bridegroom, from a pecuniary point of view, commence from the moment of his engagement," reported *Manners and Rules of Good Society* back in 1912 — which made the Breach of Promise action brought by the woman or, more usually, her father, a real and expensive threat.

Trifling with the affections of an innocent young girl," was how Victorians would have put it. And if Mills and Boon historical romances are to be believed, the man stood a fair chance of being horsewhipped as well as sued by the wronged girl's enraged relations.

But the Breach of Promise action in Britain ended with the Law Reform Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) of 1970. That particular miscellaneous provision was steered through Parliament by Leo Abse, who did concede that one of its effects would be to allow unscrupulous men to indulge in serial wooing.

The well-prepared lady will stick to safe courtship. While he is on his knees pouring out those all-important words; get the ring, and get the proposal in writing. And while you are about it, carry the full pre-nuptial agreement, all made out and ready to sign, in your handbag. Without those, you will have little redress for your broken heart except tears.



Jilting featured in *Sense and Sensibility*

tended, entitled to sue? This is a minefield of modern manners and etiquette — and potentially profitable or ruinous litigation.

A broken engagement is not unlike a divorce, although it upsets, potentially, a different range of people — and more of them. Charlotte James was all set for a big, expensive society wedding. "We had the church booked, the honeymoon booked, everything," she says. "It was only a week before the ceremony that I decided that I couldn't go through with it."

"He, I like to think, was broken-hearted, but his family

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Why the Rolex robberies shouldn't force us to be ruder

The English find their safest refuge in rudeness, argues Rachel Campbell-Johnston

There's been a spate of Rolex robberies this summer. Londoners must mind their manners — because thieves, apparently, will prey on politeness. They will come up to ask you the time, and then whip the Rolex from your wrist, before you can say "it's made in Taiwan".

"I hate to say this," says Detective Inspector Glenn Gavin of the Paddington Station robbery squad, "but people have got to start being quite rude. If you are approached in the street by a stranger asking the time, just say no."

What a dismal outlook. Londoners are already perfectly rude. They don't need official encouragement, least of all to protect a few Rolex wearers. They can manage to dispense with most civilities on their own. Take my average morning. After tripping over someone else's dustbin bag left outside my door, I dodge my way along the pavement, am shunted down the stairs into the Tube station, dislodged from the handrail, pushed onto the escalators, shoved inside a train and left standing while wily passengers — who got on much later than me — dart to occupy any vacant seat.

Even on a jammed Tube train in summer, there is space for small courtesies: the gentle camaraderie nurtured by shared affliction. But too often traditional English reserve has evolved into rudeness, because it is in rudeness that we find our safest refuge. This is especially true for women.

Women could once cover safely on their pedestals. Men put us there, largely for the same reason: restaurants put chairs on tables — so that they can make a clean sweep. But now the sexes mix messily on an equal level. If a woman extends any sort of courteous advance, men mistake it for a come-on. Smile at a passer-by,



Politeness consists of keeping one's persona in place

and the next thing you know he is demanding your phone number. Even more problematic — how do you politely turn advances away? Women, we should remember, have a long history of coyness. For years it was expected that we should resist. To say "no" when we meant "yes".

Only last week a friend phoned to ask me out for a walk. Admittedly it was quite late in the evening. Perhaps we should have stayed demurely at home. But I arranged to see her at the park gates. A man beckoned me from a parked car as I walked to meet her. I know... I've heard it before... you aren't supposed to talk to strangers.

But he only wanted directions. "Can you tell me how to get to Marble Arch?" he asked. An odd question, seeing as the Arch — one of London's more prominent landmarks — was in clear view. But I drew closer to point it out anyway. "Have you seen you somewhere before?" he asked.

When you are fed the oldest cliché in the book "what can you do but smile and walk away?" Five minutes later I was still waiting for my friend, and the man suddenly reappeared — this time without his car. "You smiled," he said. I dodged nervously behind the park gates. He lunged. I darted — the other

way. He darted too. And then we both drew edgily to a halt, the bars of the gates between us. "I only wanted to talk to you. You seemed so nice and friendly before," the man sighed. "I vacillated."

Shouldn't you give every one the benefit of the doubt? He looked quite respectable. Perhaps he was lonely? "Don't you know?" I quavered at last, with all the pomposity I could muster. "A woman can't afford to trust. And a gentleman should never put her in the embarrassing position of having to say so. The man looked offended and stalked away."

English traditions of politeness have always consisted of keeping one's persona in place, preventing bodily odours, unnecessary verbiage — or any other unpleasant effusions — from straying inconveniently into another's space. To show good manners in the modern urban world is merely to take this one step further and draw even tighter boundaries.

Isn't it only polite to say what you mean unambiguously? It saves embarrassing confusion on either side. My mistake was to smile at the man in the car, to send out mixed signals.

"Just say no," advises Detective Inspector Gavin. It sounds so simple. But that one tiny word is capable of sending an average Briton into a flustered dither. Yet it is precisely this lack of clarity which is most rude — which leads to most embarrassment. Detective Inspector Gavin makes a quintessentially British mistake when he equates saying "no" with being rude. They aren't the same thing at all. When a stranger approaches you in the street to ask the time, you can tell him no, you don't have a watch, but still pass the time of day perfectly politely. It just takes a bit of practice.

Cunanan offered to kill me

How did social cyclone Andrew Cunanan become a serial killer? Steven Zeeland recalls the man who was his boyfriend's other lover



Jay, above, with Cunanan at right, as photographed by Jeffrey Trail, below left. Trail was to become Cunanan's first victim; Gianni Versace, below right, his fifth and last, shot outside his Miami mansion, above right



Andrew Cunanan gave me my first Xanax. This story starts on the beach in San Diego. Andrew used to go there with my lover, Corporal Jay. One half-summer's day in 1994, Jay was heading back from a swim when he stepped on a stingray. Andrew was equipped to treat Jay's pain. He made him swallow Vicodin, a narcotic analgesic. When Jay came home to our apartment, his foot was still a little sore but he was smiling glassily. "Andrew's a walking drugstore," he said, adding that Andrew had at last revealed how he obtained at least some of the money he threw around so freely. — Andrew dealt in prescription drugs.

"Maybe he can get me some sleeping pills," I wondered aloud. A few days later Jay returned from a night in San Diego's gay bars with a miniature Ziploc bag containing three lavender pills. "I told Andrew what you wanted. He said that you should try these. It's what he takes."

Xanax is an anti-anxiety medication, prescribed to inhibit panic attacks. A few nights later I took one of the pills at bedtime. I didn't like Xanax. It got me to sleep all right, but the entire next day I felt... emotionally flat.

I didn't take Xanax the night in early May this year when I was told that Andrew was accused of murdering former Navy Lieutenant Jeffrey Trail, 27, Minneapolis architect David Madison, 33, and Chicago millionaire Lee Miglin, 72, in a cross-country killing spree. A few days later it was reported that Andrew had killed a fourth man, New Jersey cemetery groundskeeper William Reese, 45.

Then Andrew disappeared. Jay and I had left San Diego behind us the previous September. But still I felt astonishment, not anxiety. That was to change.

An accused man takes on a special beauty. That, at least, is what Kafka says in *The Trial*. I thought Kafka must be right when I saw photos of Andrew on TV's *America's Most Wanted*. Andrew was a lot better-looking than I remembered him — sneering, scruffy, unaccountably butch.

In May and early June the same photo of Andrew was featured in magazines and newspapers across the US.

The sequence began in San Diego's gay-friendly Hillcrest neighbourhood, with a 27-year-old who called himself Andrew DeSilva, but whose family knew him as Andrew Cunanan. Bespectacled, and slightly paunchy, DeSilva liked to dance with his shirt off. — *Time*

[He] laughed loud, bought expensive gifts for friends and always covered the dinner tab. — *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

[Mary Ann Cunanan] thinks her son is supporting himself with money he got from wealthy older men. He was a high class homosexual prostitute, she said. — *UPI*

Andrew liked to give presents. In recent months perhaps hundreds of men have stared at their own mementoes of the "spree killer."

To retrace how my world overlapped with Andrew's, I returned to San Diego, one of his presents — a Polaroid camera — hanging around my neck.

I never recognised a kindred spirit in Andrew. Flashy, flush



with cash, wildly exuberant and always grinning, he seemed, if anything, almost my opposite. But for the first year or two of the four years I lived in Hillcrest, I spent almost every night in the gay bars and clubs, hanging out with my own circle of boys drawn from San Diego's huge military population. My objective was not usually sex but to win the trust of men I could interview for my trilogy of books on military homoeroticism. By 1994, I'd met hundreds of sailors and Marines.

Military boys make easy targets for all sorts of predators. Andrew drew them into his circle by showering them with money and attention. He pretended to be a rich, former military officer. I admitted to being an obscure, broke author, but even that impressed them. We both courted

Andrew never paid that much attention to me. But he did once offer to kill me



beautiful young men we didn't want to have sex with. And we competed for the favour of one young military man.

Jay was an adorable 21-year-old Marine from rural Wisconsin who attached himself to me like a burr.

I don't remember now exactly when, in 1993, Jay first mentioned Andrew, or when Andrew first came by our apartment to pick him up, but for two years Andrew was my biggest rival for Jay's affection.

"A social cyclone" is Jay's term for Andrew. "He could always move in and dominate any room."

Jay, too, insists that Andrew was not interested in him sexually, although occasionally he did observe other men try to pick up Andrew. "Andrew would just lead them along, and be all coy and

seductive. And finally, right as the bar was closing, he'd say: "It was nice to meet you. Goodbye."

For both me and Andrew, paying attention to military boys had become a habit. By the time I met Jay, I was sick of the bars. Talking about sex had become work. More and more I wanted sex without any words. I withdrew from the scene, and stayed home with Corporal Jay.

But Jay wanted something from me other than sex. He went elsewhere for that. Reluctantly, so did I. In 1995 I told Jay about an especially beautiful man I'd encountered.

He laughed. "That's Jeff," he said. "He's Andrew's best friend." Later I was introduced to Jeff at a gay club. We shook hands; he looked at the floor.

This Jeff was Jeffrey Trail, and

he used to go to the beach with Jay and Andrew. "Andrew really, really liked Jeff," says Jay. "Jeff was given respect, and space, which Andrew didn't give to that many other people."

Arriving back in San Diego, I went directly to the place where Jeff and I had met. I am not authorised to visit Navy bases, but the guard shack at the entrance was unmanned. Out of habit I peered inside. There was an extremely poor-quality photocopy of Andrew's FBI poster, the photos all but unrecognisable.

Andrew was everywhere in San Diego, at least in casual conversation. Many of the acquaintances I talked to about Andrew seemed blithely unconcerned about the prospect of him coming home to kill them.

I know that there are many people Andrew wanted to kill before me. But maybe he would have granted me an exclusive interview, my last and best-remembered. Of course, in thinking this, I was indulging in the same drama queen silliness of Andrew-spotters nationwide. Really, Andrew never paid that much attention to me. But he did once offer to kill me.

One evening Jay returned from dinner with Andrew to discover that his car had been broken into. Something led Jay to conclude it was me who had taken a screwdriver to his trunk. He appeared at the door to our apartment and, to my confusion, wordlessly began packing his belongings.

Later, Jay said that he had gone to Andrew for advice. Andrew told him that he did not know me well enough to say whether I would

betray the trust of his best friend. "But," Jay told me cheerfully, "he said that if I wanted him to, he would kill you anyway."

The incident that marked the turning point in Jay's — and my — relationship with Andrew will not come as a surprise to anyone versed in serial killer narratives.

Jay: "We were down at the beach in the tide pools. There was a really big anemone. Andrew shrieked and said, 'I'm going to catch a crab for it!' So he went around to a rock, and there was a crab and it crawled into a little crevice. He started jabbing his keys into the hole. He had a very focused look in his eye. He just kept jabbing until the crab was basically mush, and there were little pieces falling out. He took them and fed them to the anemone."

That disturbed you? "Oh yeah." Why? "Well, there was a certain amount of violence. And he'd already shown me his gun... I guess I started distancing myself."

When I finally got Andrew's camera fixed the results were disappointing. The Polaroid Captiva 95 was designed as a "party camera". The best photo taken with the camera Andrew gave Jay is still the first. Shot in a bar (by Jeff Trail), it depicts the reputed psycho killer in Nautica jacket, his head pressed to Jay's chest, a smile on his lips that now, at least, seems to spell trouble.

● This is an edited version of an article in the current issue of *The Face*. ● Steven Zeeland is the author of *The Masculine Marine* (Harrington Park). His Web site can be found at <http://www.stevenzeeland.com>

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Does Blair know how to save the Union?

John Lloyd wants Britain to embrace civic unionism if it is to survive

The phrase "civic unionism" is sometimes used of Northern Ireland. It expresses a hope as much as it describes a reality: that political unionism can fully emerge as non-sectarian, open and socially liberal, leading its supporters to follow its example even as they affirm their wish — and right — to remain British.

It has a wider application. When used of the UK, it means that those nations and regions which make up Britain — however they have been brought together, through conquest or dirty deal, however much they were induced to stay in by imperial adventure or self-interest or fear — can together shape themselves into a modern union of disparate peoples. They would have different traditions and customs — some of these genuinely old — but would retain a commitment to a society in which their diversity was accommodated while common standards of civil rights and provision were observed. Why stay together? Because they had grown together, had invented new traditions, and valued the experience of the many in one.

But perhaps the chance has been lost for this. It is, at least, in danger. At a time when constitutional change is so pressing, it is worth considering the possibility that British postwar politics has been unable to grasp the nettle of constitutional reform. The Conservatives have failed by forgetting that conservation means change; Labour has failed by following their suit until the Seventies and then performing a volte face to now institute a partial constitutional change which replaces an apparently unsustainable old order with a possibly unacceptable new one.

Northern Ireland is the most dramatic and urgent case, because violence is always threatened over a partition to which the Irish state — and Irish diaspora — refuse to reconcile themselves. Yet at the core, the situation is also unchanging: the will of the majority in Ulster remains for the Union, and no other conclusion than a unionist one from any forum of negotiations can possibly be just. New Labour had appeared to accept this; the Prime Minister's May 18 speech in Belfast was a landmark in this respect, both for his party and for the province. But now there are doubts: is policy running along the lines sketched in by his affirmation of unionism? Or is the imperative to get a ceasefire, and include the IRA into the talks process, determining a series of present and future concessions which will demoralise the unionists and weaken the union while never fully satisfying the terrorists?

Scotland is the presently urgent case, since it will vote next month on the establishment of a parliament. Labour's assertion of Scotland's right to self-government, to which the party actively and fully committed itself in the Eighties, has ensured that a devolved system of administration only requires the expressed will of the Scots people to become law. But the nature of devolution, and its confinement to Scotland and to Wales, means that no other part of the UK has a voice in a change which will more than marginally shift the way in which the whole is governed. Scotland's right is the UK's loss — the loss of an opportunity to consider devolution as a British issue.

The Conservatives, having once been for Scottish devolution, brusquely junked the policy under Margaret Thatcher and imposed conformity on politicians who had

once enthused about it. Labour, having been for it in principle but too split to be effective campaigners for it in practice, forced commitments to Scots and Welsh devolution on a reluctant Neil Kinnock when he was leader, saw the policy elevated to a solemn pledge under John Smith and left the matter to be executed by a sceptical but bound Tony Blair. At no point by either main party was there a serious discussion of the recasting of central and regional powers in which the English might have been involved; hence their present marginalisation, in spite of efforts by Blair and some of his colleagues to make the process acceptable to the majority nation.

Wales is the mystery. Does it want the devolutionary plan on offer — and if it does, will it resent receiving an assembly with fewer powers than the Scots one because it has been less determined to get self-government than the Scots? Many — including many within the Labour Party — still have the same dismissive attitude to devolution as Neil Kinnock used to show. Will Wales be roused to vote for a mild mannered assembly? or find it meaningless or toothless?

Reform of the Lords, if and when it comes, will replace a partly hereditary chamber with a fully appointed one. No question that a system in which ancient peers have a purchase on our laws is absurd.

But an appointed chamber increases central power even as devolution to Scotland and Wales is supposed to take from it. A senate drawn from the regions of Britain would be a counterweight to the tendencies to separatism; but though there are indications that the appointed House is seen as a temporary expedient, neither it nor any other system has been canvassed by new Labour. The net effect is that the power of London increases over England, wanes over Scotland and Wales, is ambiguous over Northern Ireland.

At the constitutional apex sits a monarchy in a parlous state. The succession of Charles III to the throne of Elizabeth II will go ahead — if it goes ahead — under the gaze of a public which had the fairytale princess line fed to it in the early Eighties, and is unlikely to wish to be fooled again. Royal marriage had been held to bestow dignity on princesses (and princes); the vast majority which supported the monarchy has seen dignity sliced away by women voracious for money and fame. Can the new king be a figure to whom clergy, parliamentarians and military swear allegiance with a sense they are affirming a meaningful oath? Here is a part of our constitution for which, it would seem, a reform is most needed: yet new Labour has pronounced the deepest silence coupled with a show of the deepest public respect — debate being stifled, even though the Windsors occasionally intimate they may themselves be open to proposals for change.

Change through conscious invention of new institutions, relationships and mechanisms is the inescapable contemporary state: new Labour's strength, and success, lies in grasping that fact more fully than a once-dynamic Tory party. But the renovation of the Union, now so urgent, is in danger of leaving out England. How to include it must become part of the project.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the New Statesman.

Scotland's right to govern itself is the UK's loss

Watches are convenient but vulnerable. Derwent May celebrates the timepieces that unite us

What can be done about the spate of thefts of Rolex watches, snatched from their wearers' wrists even when they are sitting peacefully over their Caesar salad in an expensive restaurant? One bright idea comes from America. A watch firm there has developed a technique for implanting watches into a person's wrist, with the illuminated figures shining through the transparent skin. However, that would be an extreme solution for most of us. A better one would be to give up watches, and go back to the use of public clocks. But where are they?

Samuel Pepys could not afford a watch until he was 50, and pleased as Punch he was when he finally got one. However, nowadays almost everybody has a watch of some kind, and the melancholy decline in the number of public clocks is directly due to that. Public benefactors who might once have put up a clock in a town square no longer feel that their generosity will be appreciated, and shops know that few passers-by are going to look up at their clock for the time, and be tempted to come in and buy.

One notable restoration recently was the great four-faced clock, set in red and gold cast-iron, at Waterloo Station. But the outstanding provider of clocks in the capital today is the London Underground.

The privatisation of the public clock

In English Heritage stations, mainly on the Northern Line, they are keeping in good order the large round clocks called American self-winders that were installed in the early days of the Underground, when it was still a network of private lines partly owned by an American railway company.

The majority of clocks now to be seen on Underground stations, however, are those panels of illuminated yellow numbers that click their way through the minutes, and are called Liquid Crystal Display clocks. They are all controlled from a single centre, and for the past few years have been useful and reliable.

Unfortunately, the first generation of them is now wearing out, and whatever time they are showing, layers of other glimmering, ghostly numbers are visible behind the "4.29" or whatever the time is, making it very hard to read. A spokesman for the Underground

tells me these clocks are all in process of replacement, and by the end of the financial year a new set of LCDs will have taken their place. One can already be seen at Green Park station on the Piccadilly Line. Incidentally, I also learnt from the Underground why the clocks on many stations are at the end of the platform at the entrance to the tunnel, necessitating very often a walk to see what they are saying. It is because they are meant primarily to help the drivers. As the drivers pull up in a station, they can take in the time without glancing down at their watch, so taking their eyes off the track. A good theory, anyway.

But I am not satisfied with those LCDs, because — apart from their dull clicking — they are silent. It is worth remembering that "clock" originally meant "bell" or "chime", as in French *cloche*. I have just been staying near a village on Lake Como, where a church clock not

only chimes the hours, but also the quarters and the halves. At quarter past ten you get all the ten strokes you had 15 minutes before, plus a single chime on a different, lighter bell. At half past and quarter to, you get the full chimes for the hour; and a final two or three light chimes, respectively. You can hear the same wealth of sounds from the town square clock at Ravenna.

Such public clocks are more than just useful. I am sure that they help to bind people together in the most desirable way — namely, through their imaginations. As the clock chimes, people think of others who are also hearing it, and of what they are doing. They are less alone, and more outgoing in their thoughts. Even clocks that have stopped can be a source of common interest and pleasure — think of Rupert Brooke's church clock at Grantchester, standing for ever at ten to three, or the church clock at St Ives, known to all readers of that gentle clergyman-diaryist Kilvert, which was constantly stopping because of the dreadful smell of fish in the town. I always think it a sacrilege when on BBC Radio News they slip the headlines in breathlessly between the chimes of Big Ben. One just wants to listen to the great bell ringing round the world.

In fact the scarcity of public clocks contributes at present, when the Rolex robberies are going on, to precisely the opposite state of affairs — a general distrust and fear. Once, people were happy to oblige when they were asked the time by a stranger. Now a perfectly innocent request is treated with suspicion. Is it the inquirer's intention to snatch the watch as soon as the wrist is lifted?

So, developers and benefactors, bring back the public clock! It was a curious revelation recently by — even more curiously — the Ministry of Defence newsletter, that when John Major moved into the private apartments of No.10, he had all the striking and chiming clocks removed. His successor has reportedly brought them all back again. Let us hope that is a good omen for us clock-lovers.

Philip Howard is away.

Out of Africa's horror

The dark continent's best hope might be to revive a multi-national mandate

In Lusaka... Africans were not allowed in most European shops, but had to use hatchways. They stood in line out in the dust or rain in dark passageways on the side of or behind the shop, where a kind of peephole with a small ledge was built into the wall. Through this hatch they called out their wants, and merchandise was (if the white salesman inside chose to pay attention) pushed out to them through the slot. Africans were not allowed to touch or handle articles... they had no opportunity for looking around or making any kind of choice.

The author and traveller John Gunther was describing, in his book *Inside Africa*, a British colony, Northern Rhodesia, in the early 1950s. I lived in Southern Rhodesia and remember what we used to call the colour bar — well, so I begin this, the last of three articles, by repeating that it is from no very great height that Africa has fallen; there was no golden age of colonialism, no time of harmony, justice and prosperity for all. Nostalgia gets us nowhere.

But it is worth looking back, and for this reason. At the time when the European colonial powers began quitting, things were getting better in Africa, and had been for some time. Since the European powers quit, they have been getting worse and are still getting worse. I have tried to demonstrate the extent of the decline.

Any reasonable observer must conclude that African nations have not governed themselves well. The record is little short of disastrous. Why? It was fashionable at first among European liberals to explain African failure as a consequence of white racism. But 40 years have now passed since decolonisation began and across much of the continent there are no white people left. Colonialism fades into a memory. Yet still African languishes. It is hard to sustain the view that the European legacy is now what holds the continent back. Racism and colonialism have not stopped the new Asian economies.

An allied view is that Western economic exploitation of the whole continent has permanently crippled the African economies. But other countries have survived exploitation, and prospered; there is no evidence that Africa has been worse plundered than other continents. Indeed, her problem now may actually be lack of economic exploitation: investors and traders

have been frightened off. Another view — rarely printed but quite insistently held by a certain type of white person — is that Africans are permanently incapable of governing themselves. This would have to arise from some sort of genetic difference, or an acquired cultural outlook so deeply ingrained as to be in practice ineradicable. But black politicians operate successfully outside Africa and, besides, the evidence of my own senses is that differences on this scale do not exist. My secondary education in a mixed-race school in Swaziland never suggested any great gulf in ability or outlook. I reject that view.

Unless I am overlooking other explanations of African failure, we are left with only one: that African countries could govern themselves well, but have not yet learnt how. This is sometimes asserted, coupled with the opinion that experience will teach them — is teaching them — and so what we see, however dismaying, is a "learning curve". Time will cure all.

That is not self-evident. If what African administrations lacked was information or know-how, then it might be the case that experience (and Western assistance) could provide it. But if what is missing are the habits of diligence, probity, tolerance and trust in public administration, then there is no more reason to suppose that if we wait long enough these habits will grow, than to suppose that a generation abused by its parents will treat its own children better. On the contrary. Brutal, corrupt, slovenly government is self-reinforcing, self-perpetuating. A certain minimum standard of government is required to teach the habits of responsibility to which the European powers were only beginning to awake when, having changed our minds about empire, we quit.

It will happen anyway — is happening already. In parts of Zaire, multi-national mineral companies have been effectively running states within a state. In Nigeria, there are areas within which Shell's writ, not that of Lagos, runs. But the flaw in this arrangement is obvious. Left to its own devices, Western capital will cherry-pick, establishing what administration it needs to extract resources, and leaving the rest to rot. In that respect, Queen Victoria's century was more benign: in



There is no reason to believe that a continent, which has deteriorated in the past 40 years, must improve in the next 50.

If Africa is to regain her foothold it is not enough to send aid, which will be squandered, or teachers, who will be ignored. It is time we began to think seriously about reoccupying the most hopeless and desperate parts of the continent and testing the possibilities of installing

sound administrations equipped to teach the habits of responsibility to which the European powers were only beginning to awake when, having changed our minds about empire, we quit.

It will happen anyway — is happening already. In parts of Zaire, multi-national mineral companies have been effectively running states within a state. In Nigeria, there are areas within which Shell's writ, not that of Lagos, runs. But the flaw in this arrangement is obvious. Left to its own devices, Western capital will cherry-pick, establishing what administration it needs to extract resources, and leaving the rest to rot. In that respect, Queen Victoria's century was more benign: in

return for a general franchise, the British South Africa Company was made to accept exacting responsibilities across Central Africa. Today De Beers, RTZ and Lonrho owe duties only to their shareholders.

To suggest that world opinion would permit Western powers to re-colonise for themselves significant tracts in Africa is fanciful, though not beyond imagination. For Britain to administer Sierra Leone again might be understandable, yet the peoples of that territory would get better government. What might be less fanciful is an idea proposed two years ago in a speech by Leo Tindemans. The former Belgian Foreign Minister spoke tentatively about reviving something akin to the United Nations mandate. The speech was greeted with horror and he has not revisited the idea. Perhaps he regrets talking about it.

But it was brave, and true. The advantage of a multi-national mandate is that it need not be a wholly "white" initiative; countries like South Africa and India could be involved in steering and overseeing mandating powers. But day-to-day administration might best be handled by a single power, mandated to govern, rewarded with an agreed share in revenues, and supervised by the mandating authority.

Doubtless it is a fantasy, to

suppose that African countries with the rotting superstructure of a once-adequate administration still in place — countries like Kenya or Nigeria — would wish to touch such an experiment. But is it pure fantasy to suppose that places like Burundi, Rwanda or Eastern Zaire might prefer the imposition of a well-managed administration driven by a consortium of developed nations, to the hopeless savagery of occupation by despots? One way or another we shall get colonialism in Africa as those who can buy arms and feed armies overrun those who cannot. Does it make it more acceptable, that occupier and occupied are both black?

I write this with a weary feeling that too many who call themselves "enlightened" will suppose the idea unthinkable for it to have any chance of gaining ground. I simply ask whether to condemn the rising generations in Africa to the misery that has been the fate of the generation which is dying — either on the grounds that the alternative is unthinkable, or on some theoretical speculation that all this murder, pillage and starvation is a sort of cosmo-historical school in which "Africa" is "learning" to cope — may comfort itself with the name of Western liberalism, but amounts to a looking-away in which there is also a kind of cruelty.

Pink Peke

DAME BARBARA CARTLAND's male sleeping companion of more than a decade has passed away. Mimi, her beloved Pekinese, was deemed to be too old to survive a vital operation on his jaw and was put down last week. He was 13.

Mimi was as much a part of Dame Barbara's life and public image as pink chiffon and dark romantic heroes. She has gone to her Scottish retreat for some quiet

reflection after burying him in the garden of her Hertfordshire home. "I can't talk about it without bursting into tears. He always went everywhere with me," she says. "He slept with me. He was so sweet. Whenever I went, he went, too. If I walked across the room, he would follow."

Mimi had his own pink mattress in her bedroom but always slept on her bed. Last summer when it was again very hot, he left her bed for the first time to sleep in the fireplace and enjoy the benefit of a through draught.

Dame Barbara, who at 96 has outlived many pets as well as two husbands, still has a black Labrador for company but intends to get another Pekinese. However, she insists that she must have a white male like Mimi, but they are a rare commodity. "They are frightfully expensive because they are so rare," she says. It is to be hoped that she and her new friend are united soon.

Remarkably immune to the soaring temperatures in London



Dame Barbara and Mimi

are the staff of Tatler magazine, who have decreed that summer has ended. As guests sweltered at a Ritz garden party the other day, the magazine's Editor, Jane Procter, declared airily: "Summer finished for Britons ten days ago. The Med (the Mediterranean season, apparently, when the cast of *Tatler* decamp to their yachts) is over." Happily, Miss Procter's honied complexion suggests that she managed a few days sprawled on the deck of a Sigma 38 before bringing



Your wait's up

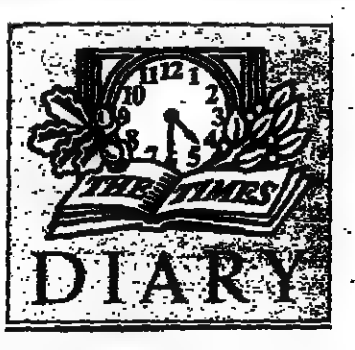
the curtain down on the holiday season.

Hot spot

AN award for bravura must go to the Montserrat Tourist Board, which is doggedly still trying to woo visitors to the island even as its inhabitants are abandoning their homes and fleeing for their lives. A reader draws my attention to the board's Internet website which boasts that while some tourist attractions are inaccessible, there is still a "designated safe area" and plenty to do. "The exciting new attraction is the most interesting volcano in the world, the recently awakened Soufriere Volcano. If you're lucky, you can see a wonderful glow at night — it's truly unique!" I'm sure it is.

Sweet song

JOHN PRESCOTT has revealed the origin of his affection for river buses, which he wants to see reintroduced to the Thames as part of his integrated transport policy. The Deputy Prime Minister's wife, the lovely Pauline, used to launch them when they first graced the river be-



fore going out of business some years ago. He says this personal experience has given him a vital insight into a design flaw in the original buses. "My wife launched them at St Katharine's Dock. But they were aluminium. They kept throwing the champagne bottles at them and they kept bouncing back."

Root cause

FOLLOWING England's pitiful performance at The Oval yesterday there will no doubt be much soul-searching about the future of the English game. However, as Sir Garfield Sobers discovered yesterday, simple apathy is probably the root of the problem.

The West Indian legend, whose record Test match score of 365 stood for 36 years until eclipsed by Brian Lara's 375 in 1994, had been secured by Attenborough Cricket Club in Nottingham to run a cricket clinic. The masterclass has been cancelled shortly before Sir Gary's arrival because only nine children had signed up.

Royal tips

A PR executive should know how to present herself but if Sophie Rhys-Jones needs any tips on dealing with the Royal Family she can now just pop next door. Belinda Harley, the former assistant-private-secretary to the Prince of Wales, is moving her publishing agency into the same offices as Prince Edward's girlfriend in Mayfair, Miss Rhys-Jones, who runs a PR company, and Miss Harley will rent separate sections of the office above the Thomas Goode china shop in South Audley Street and will have to share a photocopier and a kitchen. "We will welcome Belinda with a slap-up lunch," purrs Miss Rhys-Jones's partner, Murray Hardin. "It's such a nice office. Terry O'Neill (the royal photographer) is on the second floor." Cosy.



Sophie Rhys-Jones welcoming

● In-flight fashion is proving expensive for the staff of Landa Air, who have been issued with regulation Levi 501 jeans in an attempt to rejuvenate the image of the airline, which was founded by the former racing driver Niki Lauda. So smart are the jeans, at £40 a pair, that the inland *Keweenaw* has classed them as a taxable benefit, for which all British-based staff must pay £8. "As we don't have any uniforms we will just have to grin and bear it," says an unhappy recipient.

P.H.S

A QUALIFIED SUCCESS

The GCSE system could still do better

The suspense is over. The results are in. Now 16-year-olds can enjoy the last couple of weeks of their summer holidays unencumbered by the dread of GCSE grades to come. Each teenager will have his or her own tale of euphoria or disappointment. But there are bigger stories to untangle from the results that have been published this week.

After several years of uncertainty, the GCSE system has now settled down. It is possible to compare one year with another and be confident that an improvement really is an improvement, not merely an anomaly or an example of more lenient marking. So this year, for instance, the results are marginally better, with an increase of 0.4 per cent in the pass rate for A* to C grades, the equivalent of the old O Level.

But there was also a worrying fall in the number of entrants for English, a subject that all 16-year-olds should be able to master. More students were examined in the newer (and perhaps easier) subjects such as PE, home economics and drama. Meanwhile the more traditional subjects, such as French, history, physics and chemistry, are quietly being spurned.

Harder to assess, but possibly more important for parents, are the perverse effects that the school league tables of GCSE results are likely to produce. At the moment, schools are judged by the percentage of their 16-year-olds gaining five GCSEs at A* to C grades. This is the accepted basic academic qualification demanded by employers. But the focus on this achievement alone means that schools are likely to work hardest with pupils in the middle of the ability range at the expense of those at the top and the bottom.

To maximise their league table score, schools are tempted to concentrate on turning D grades into Cs. There is little incentive to turn a G into a D, or indeed a C into an A, let alone an A*. Yet, for individual pupils, grades are very important. At the top

end, they influence a university's judgment, since pupils have to apply for a place before their A-level results are known. And at the bottom, a D or an E grade is more likely to lead to a job than an F or a G. The Government should consider introducing a points scoring system for GCSEs, like the one used at A-level, which would encourage teachers to work on improvements across the board, not just in the middle.

There is also the national scandal of the 9 per cent of all 16-year-olds who achieve not a single GCSE at any grade. There will always be a small number in any age group whose lack of ability precludes them from any academic success. But the size of this non-achieving group suggests that too many secondary pupils simply give up on school. A determined effort is needed to improve their motivation. It can be no accident that schools with the worst truancy records also tend to have the worst GCSE results.

Although GCSEs were supposed to be more modern than O levels, they are starting to look old-fashioned already. For those who leave school at 16, they may be a useful qualification. But these represent only 30 per cent of the age group, a third of whom have no GCSEs at all and two-thirds of whom do not have the basic maths and English. These school-leavers might be better served with vocational qualifications. Meanwhile, for the 70 per cent who stay on (a proportion that has doubled in a decade), GCSEs are not as good a grounding for A levels as the old O levels were. So the newer qualification suits, at best, only a fifth of pupils.

Even Nick Tate, head of the Government's new Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, admits that the GCSE may not be serving the nation's needs. He is right to argue that, since the effective school leaving age is now 18, there is less need for academic exams at 16, an age when hardly any other European country puts its pupils to the test.

WAIGEL'S HOLE

Sounds of digging under the great Schloss built by Kohl

Germany's August *Sonderloch*, the annual "summer hole" when Bonn empties, can be a season not of mellow reflection but of fraying political nerves and muttered sentiments. Come autumn, Helmut Kohl has never seemed to have to lift more than a fingertip to pull his cohorts into line. But he has not previously had to contend with challenges to his authority so explicit, or so close to home, as those issued this month by Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister.

On the surface, Herr Waigel's abrupt announcement this week that nine years in his present job is enough and that he seeks new political challenges would hardly seem to rank as a political explosion. He has not after all resigned with immediate effect. But equally, Herr Kohl can hardly go into the difficult 14-month run-up to the next parliamentary elections with a lame-duck Finance Minister and an even lamer economy. So Herr Waigel has said quite enough to upset the political applecart — as he clearly intended.

What Germans understand Herr Waigel to be saying to Chancellor Kohl is this: "Look here. I have saved your bacon time and again this past year, taking all the heat on an unpopular budget, failed tax reforms and the fiasco of the failed 'Rhinegold' raid on the Bundesbank reserves. Earlier this month, I said we needed to reshuffle this limp Cabinet and present voters with a Government in fighting condition to make a fresh start on Germany's problems. You dismissed the idea as 'superfluous'. But you cannot so dismiss me. I am the leader of the Christian Social Union which props up your coalition. And I have had enough."

In Britain, a Cabinet reshuffle would be sufficient to buy peace. But Herr Kohl cannot easily take that route. The reshuffle wanted by the ambitious Herr Waigel, who

has pointedly said that he can "do any job", would risk open war between the two wings of the coalition centred on Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats — the CSU and the tiny Free Democrat Party.

Herr Waigel wants the Foreign Ministry, traditionally the number two slot in German politics, but an FDP preserve. This would mean considerably more Cabinet power for the CSU, which it argues is its due since, alone of the coalition parties, its popular standing is on the rise. But, precisely because the tiny FDP is fighting to stay on the map of federal politics, it would fiercely resist any demotion. Hence Herr Kohl's natural inclination to sweep this dust firmly back under the rug. Herr Waigel's latest move has made that much harder for him to do.

Even if this proves to be only a summer storm, it clears the air. What stands revealed is the growing desperation of the Chancellor's most powerful colleagues to change the political agenda and find a genuinely popular platform on which to fight an election campaign that all opinion polls agree the centre-right may well lose.

Herr Waigel has his power base in his own party to look to, and he is now the only CSU heavyweight who is not openly demanding a two-year postponement of EMU. As Finance Minister, he cannot break ranks with the Chancellor; and he will have noted that when his predecessor, Gerhard Stoltenberg, told CDU MPs earlier this summer that EMU should take third place to growth and unemployment, he was cheered to the rafters. The main obstacle to the "new start" Herr Waigel demands is the Government's commitment to meet the January 1999 deadline for EMU, come what may. Because there is no shaking the Chancellor on this point, the main obstacle to electoral victory is Herr Kohl himself.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

The summer of love goes under the hammer

Auction houses which once sniffed at anything younger than their founders are now falling over themselves to sell items that are fresher than an airline wetwiper. The latest auction of ephemera from an era close by will take place this autumn in California. Even in a place where a dinosaur is a laptop without Windows 95 and prehistory is the time before decaf skinny latte came with cinnamon or nutmeg, the idea of an auction of "antiques" from the '68 Summer of Love still seems just a little rushed. But nothing at the moment is as popular with auctioneers as popular culture.

What is meant by popular culture is, of course, changing. Book collectors find that the prices of slightly foxed firsts soar when it is Hollywood rather than the literary academies which signal approval. Once an early novel is turned into a script and then a screen hit the value of the first edition rises dramatically as a new generation of fans attaches to own one of the now iconic originals. Vladimir Nabokov's early admirers are not the only beneficiaries of screen stardust. *Superman* comics, once in every American boy's bedroom, became literally pulp fiction in the Forties when they were turned into packaging for the war effort. Then, when Christopher Reeve on the big screen and Teri Hatcher on the small made *Superman* stylish again, there was a run on the originals. They were so reduced in number

that their value rose faster than a bird, a plane, or even a speeding bullet. Supply and demand, multiplied by childhood memories, meant an investment of a few cents in a superhero's adventures appreciated a hundred-thousand-fold and more.

For the organisers of the summer of love sale, trying to interest buyers in the Grateful Dead's leather "medicine bag", there have, unfortunately, been no cinematic or television blockbusters which capture the mood of Haight-Ashbury 30 years ago. There has been no Attenborough biopic of Jerry Garcia or BBC/CBS co-production mini-series on Crosby, Stills and Nash. A measure of nostalgia for hippier days does, however, permeate the *fin de siècle* Nineties and movies like *Basquiat*, as well as pop's current plundering of the era, have enlivened the interest of a new generation.

Many of those anxious to buy mementoes of the summer of love may well find that artefacts are the only memories they have. For the hard-core hippies of '67 and '68, if you can remember what you were doing, you cannot have been there. They will approach the past through a glass darkly, like the pop star writing his memoirs who asked anyone who knew him during the Seventies to tell him what he had done, with what, and to whom. Perhaps, a sunburst poster of smoke and writhing limbs will be just the thing to jog the mind: a steal at \$10,000.

Labour 'has only itself to blame'

From Mr John Marshall

Sir, You may be right that Donald Dewar regards the scandals engulfing the Scottish Labour Party as an irritating distraction from the devolution debate (leading article, August 20). Yet Mr Dewar has been a Glasgow MP for 19 years, was Shadow Scottish Secretary for nine years and Labour Chief Whip for 18 months. What did he then do to cleanse the Augean stables?

He can surely not complain if the party machine, whose weaknesses he seems to have overlooked, has come to haunt him now.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MARSHALL
(Conservative MP for Hendon South, 1987-97).
Finchley and Golders Green Conservatives,
Margaret Thatcher House,
212 Ballards Lane, N3,
August 20.

From Mr Joseph Sinclair

Sir, My euphoria at the Labour victory in the general election after the years of sleaze and immorality from an increasingly corrupted Government is rapidly turning to despair by the succession of stories of callousness and cynicism of which today's front-page story — the threatened suicide of an MP and the Chief Whip's apparent inaction — is merely the latest example.

Yours faithfully,
J. SINCLAIR,
106 Holders Hill Road, NW4,
August 21.

From Mr Richard Cussons

Sir, Labour's firm action at the national level in respect of Tommy Graham contrasts starkly with the shameful inaction of John Major in respect of Neil Hamilton. Thank goodness Tatton voters did it for him.

Between firing salvos at Labour, William Hague should learn lessons from them.

Yours etc.
RICHARD CUSSONS
(Member, Tatton Conservative Association),
Jabulani, Benon Lane,
Knutsford, Cheshire,
August 21.

From Dr John D. Parkinson

Sir, Is it not a presumption if not an impediment for Mr Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, to exonerate Mr Tommy Graham publicly from any involvement in the death of Mr Gordon McManus (report, August 20)?

Surely allocation of responsibility or otherwise is the task of the Procurator Fiscal, should he consider it appropriate to hold an inquiry.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. PARKINSON,
Strathgry,
Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire,
strathgry@aol.com
August 20.

Bosnian Serb threats

From Professor Adrian Hastings

Sir, Your report (August 18) that Bosnian Serbs have threatened that "hundreds will die, thousands" if Radovan Karadzic is arrested for war crimes is not a reason to delay. Like many similar Bosnian Serb threats in the past (even to bombard London) it should not be taken over-seriously.

The opposite is undoubtedly true. If Karadzic and other senior indicted war criminals are not arrested but remain as at present, effectively wielding power in Republika Srpska, another war will be unavoidable once Western troops leave.

The only hope that a lasting peace can be maintained depends on the prior removal of those responsible for both the war and attempted genocide. The international community has to face a very simple alternative: some, fairly limited but possibly quite nasty, violence now — or a permanently unstable situation, followed by a full-scale war.

It would seem, however, that the principal reason why, since Dayton, the Western powers have steadily failed to arrest senior war criminals and have thus effectively reneged on their moral responsibility to do so — is a different one: if Karadzic and Mladic are put on trial they will decisively implicate President Milosevic as the master planner and paymaster of all they did.

It is, unfortunately, the profoundly mistaken American and British concern to protect Milosevic which has hitherto entailed the covert protection of Karadzic as well. But such protection is itself akin to that collusion in genocide which is part of the crime as defined in the international convention. It is more than high time that this should stop.

Yours sincerely,
ADRIAN HASTINGS,
University of Leeds,
Department of Theology and Religious Studies,
Leeds LS2 9JT,
August 19.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 01773-823046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-762 5000

Essential disciplines of 'difficult' science and maths

From Dr Jonathan Osborne

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Power to the pupils", August 16) focuses closely on the weakness of the economic argument that we need more students of science to sustain our position in the economic pecking order. Whilst the data here are controversial, the DfEE's 1996 report, *Labour Market and Skill Trends*, shows that there will be a 15 per cent growth in the demand for science and technical professionals until 2006, one of the largest.

However, there is a much more important reason why science is a vital component of a child's education. Scientific knowledge is, arguably, the most significant achievement of Western civilisation. A liberal education demands that young people should be educated to the highest level possible in science before pursuing their specialisms.

An education in science still remains an excellent preparation for a whole range of non-scientific careers and for the socio-scientific issues that confront us in daily life.

In Scotland, where young people have a wider choice of subjects till 17, our research shows that the proportion of students choosing to study science is growing and, even in the rest of the UK, it has at least remained static in the face of competition from a range of subjects, such as sport and media studies, whose cultural significance and value to employers remains highly questionable.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN OSBORNE
(Lecturer in science education),
School of Education,
King's College London,
Waterloo Road, SE1,
jonathan.osborne@kcl.ac.uk
August 18.

From Dr Trisha Greenhalgh

Sir, Simon Jenkins is right to decry the false objectives of the various A-level league tables. But exposing their weaknesses surely illustrates rather than obviates the need for a sound grounding in mathematics and statistics.

Queen's disputed visit to Amritsar

From Mr Keith Vaz, MP for Leicester East (Labour)

Sir, The controversy over the 1919 Amritsar massacre should not be permitted to disrupt the Queen's planned visit to India in October (reports, August 18).

Last Saturday when I met with the Prime Minister of India, Mr I. K. Gujral, he spoke of the visit in warm terms as a further indication of the excellent relations that exist between our two countries.

He referred to the many ways in which Britain and India could continue to foster their strong links, especially in trade and commerce. Numerous British firms are investing in India and that investment brings with it British jobs.

Last week's 50th anniversary Independence Day celebrations were highly successful, and utterly devoid of anti-British feeling. Our own Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, was given pride of place during the historic midnight parliamentary session next to the President and Prime Minister.

The massacre ordered by Brigadier General Reginald Dyer in 1919 was a shameful, appalling and outrageous act. It must surely be possible to fashion an expression of regret that revisits history, satisfies the victims and their families without causing a huge outcry. It has been done before.

But this consideration should not necessarily be tied to the Queen's visit and it ought not to prevent her visiting the Golden Temple itself. Diplomats exist to sort these problems out. They should do so speedily.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH VAZ,
House of Commons,
August 18.

Victoria's chloroform

From Dr Tony Merrifield

Sir, In an interesting article in your series on Victorian Britain ("Conquering disease as an enemy of Empire", August 15) Dr John Snow is referred to as Queen Victoria's obstetrician. In fact he was her anaesthetist; her obstetrician was Sir James Clark.

John Snow (1813-58) was the first specialist anaesthetist and the author of classic texts on ether and chloroform. His attendance at the birth of Prince Leopold in 1853 made chloro-

form popular ("chloroform à la reine"). Previously its use in obstetrics had been condemned by some sections of the Church and medical establishment as interfering with nature.

The epitaph on Snow's grave in Brompton cemetery affirms that He demonstrated that cholera is communicated by contaminated water and he made the art of anaesthesia a science.

Yours etc.
TONY MERRIFIELD,
2 Barton Square,
Ely, Cambridgeshire,
August 15.

When I teach statistics to new medical students, there are usually one or two in the class who do not know what an average is, and a sizable minority have trouble with elementary concepts such as the area under a curve.

There was a time when teachers in schools and universities had a mandate to tell students to button down to unpopular but essential areas of learning.

The current laissez-faire approach to A-level and degree choices means our education system is failing its pupils, and they are failing themselves, in mathematics and hard science.

Yours etc.
TRISHA GREENHALGH
(Senior lecturer in primary care),
University College London
Medical School,
Whittington Hospital, N19 5NF,
p.greenhalgh@ucl.ac.uk
August 17.

From Sir John Maddox

Sir, Simon Jenkins is entitled to his opinion that science studies are irrelevant in modern Britain. But it is unfair of him to attribute efforts to increase the supply of scientists principally to the Thatcher and Major Governments. This has been one of the few consistent threads of government policy since the Atlee Government.

Further, he suggests that the students marching (against science) with their feet are yet another proof of the benignity of the labour market. But this section of the market is far from perfect. It is distorted by permanently inadequate science teaching in

schools, an over-ambitious examination system and by the over-regulation of institutions in higher education. This last has cruelly inhibited educational innovation.

The next century will see a global shortage of people skilled in the technologies springing from current research in genetics and microelectronics. Does Mr Jenkins believe that Britain should opt out?

Yours etc.
JOHN MADDOX
(Editor, *Nature*, 1966-73, 1980-96;
Co-ordinator, Nuffield Science
Teaching Programme, 1964-66).
j.maddox@nature.com
8 Pitt Street, W8,
August 17.

From Mr David Weston

Sir, As Mr Jenkins appears to amass so little importance to the training and work of scientists and engineers, perhaps he would care to give up his car, computer, telephone and fax, central heating, water, electricity, healthcare and dental care (and most probably his teeth), any food he buys, and all television, radio, printing and distribution methods (and therefore his job along with the rest of the media).

What use would all his newly created accountants, lawyers and journalists be then?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WESTON,
44 Stratford Road,
Watford, Hertfordshire,
david@westons.co.uk
August 16.

From Major O. Crocombe

Sir, Simon Jenkins points out that Edinburgh accepts C grades to read engineering whilst Exeter or Salford. Could such statistics have any bearing on the fact that I currently own my eighth successive Japanese car?

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER CROCOMBE,
29 Ashcombe Court,
Ashcombe Lane, Ilminster, Somerset,
August 16.

Help for Montserrat

From Councillor Hettie Peters

Sir, There are surely many who share a deep concern over the plight of the people of Montserrat, threatened by natural forces beyond human control and, perhaps, comprehension. Possibly they also share your frustration (leading article, August 21) at our apparent inability to offer speedy and effective relief to the people of a British colony, many of whom are as much directly descended from the inhabitants of these isles as the people of St Helena or the Falklands.

A century ago every major city in the United Kingdom would have already established its relief committee, chaired by the Lord Mayor and attended by dignitaries of Church and State. Is it too much to hope that as we see this colossal tragedy unfolding, we can emulate our forebears in humanity and decisiveness?

Yours faithfully,
HETTIE PETERS,
London Borough of Hackney,
Members Secretariat,
Town Hall, Hackney, E8,
August 21.

Mislaid plans

From Mr Edwin Entecott

Sir, In today's *Times* the anachronistic term blueprint is used to describe Lord MacLaurin's proposals for cricket (once in Alan Lee's report and trade in sports letters). The blueprint became obsolete at about the end of the Second World War, and I suspect most people will never have seen one. If such a thing still exists, I expect it would be found on the walls of the Tate Gallery, posing as art.

The words plan, idea or scheme might serve better and save some ink. Cricket was never, in my experience, a matter of detailed design; more a game of chance.

Yours sincerely,
EDWIN ENTECOTT,
11 Orchard Street,
Nuneaton, Warwickshire,
August 11.

Nothing to crow about

From the Director-Secretary of Glasgow Zoopark

Sir, Having just returned from holiday, I have been catching up on some back reading. A leisurely stroll through your Pets Page (Weekend, August 9) has now come to an abrupt halt.

The author James Alcock, discussing the problem of crowing cockerels making neighbours' lives a misery, recommends "castration" (canonisation in the bird world).

As one who, for much of a lifetime, has been under the impression that this practice was called castration, I am glad to be put straight.

I look forward to my next attendance at church with renewed zest.

With grateful thanks,
Yours faithfully,
RICHARD J. P. O'GRADY,
Director-Secretary,
Glasgow Zoopark,
Calderpark, Uddingston, Glasgow,
August 19.

09/21/00 1:20

OBITUARIES

CAPTAIN WILLIAM McVICAR

Captain William McVicar, MBE, former senior captain of the Anchor Line, died on August 9 aged 83. He was born on May 12, 1914.

Although he rose to become senior captain of the now vanished Anchor Line and was master of its last passenger ship, the *Elysia*, William McVicar is remembered for one of the most extraordinary feats of leadership and endurance in the wartime annals of the Merchant Marine. His deed is, unaccountably, less often told as a wartime story than that which famously brought the British tanker *San Demetrio* to port, after she had at first been abandoned in sinking condition by her crew following an attack by the German pocket battleship *Von Scheer* in 1940. Yet McVicar's action in saving the lives of 38 passengers and crew of the passenger ship *Britannia*, after she had been sunk 600 miles off the coast of Sierra Leone in March 1941 was even more heroic.

Without his experience all would certainly have perished, after being forced to take to an open lifeboat. But McVicar realised that, because of contrary winds and currents, refuge lay not in the nearer West African coast but on the Brazilian littoral, 1,500 miles distant. As a result, thanks to the disciplinary regime he established in the craft, nearly half of those who had embarked in the lifeboat when *Britannia* sank, made it to the safety of São Paulo, Brazil. For his leadership, McVicar was appointed MBE.

William "Mac" McVicar was born at Southend, Mull of Kintyre. Educated at Campbeltown Grammar School, he joined the Merchant Navy as a cadet. In the spring of 1941 he was third officer of the 3,799-ton passenger vessel *Britannia*, which was outward bound from Liverpool carrying service personnel to Bombay. On the morning of March 25, 1941, *Britannia* was attacked by the *Thor*, one of a series of German armed merchant raiders, far less powerful than the pocket battleships the Germans were also using to attack commerce, but still capable of wreaking havoc on British trade routes.

Thor, armed with six 5.9-inch guns and four torpedo tubes, was certainly more than a match for the token defensive armament of a British



Epic survivors of Atlantic sinking: McVicar third from left in lifejacket, McIntosh seated second from right

merchantman; indeed she could happily have blown an Allied armed merchant cruiser like *Jervis Bay* (which perished under the guns of *Von Scheer* when trying to defend *San Demetrio*) out of the water. Closing to what was effectively point blank range *Thor* inflicted severe damage on the British ship which within an hour was in a sinking condition, her decks strewn with the wounded and dying. Her 400 surviving passengers and crew were ordered into four lifeboats, one of which was commanded by William McVicar.

Dakar, 600 miles distant, was the closest land, but, as McVicar knew from his navigational experience, was an almost impossible goal because of prevailing winds and currents. After a brief trial of this possibility under sail, he therefore set course for South America. From the outset the 82 occupants of the boat (which was designed to hold only 50) were rationed to an ounce of water and a biscuit per day, with a few drops of condensed milk. Subsequent storms, though imperiling the heavily laden craft, at the same time enabled rainwater to be caught.

Nevertheless the sufferings of the survivors were intense.

Many were gravely wounded. All suffered from dehydration and many developed abscesses as flesh, wasting on their limbs, rasped against the hard thwarts with the rolling of the boat. Performance of the simple bodily functions was an agony. After ten days of malnutrition and exposure men began to die. A number of the Indian seamen drank seawater and expired in torment. But McVicar kept the spirits of the remainder up and organised duties for those fit enough to keep watch and to collect rainwater.

Remarkably, after only 23 days at sea, land was sighted, thanks to a fine piece of navigation by McVicar, who had made a note of *Britannia*'s position when she was sunk, and an RNR lieutenant, who, alas, died before the landfall was actually made. A stalwart aid to McVicar was a Sub-lieutenant McIntosh who repaired the shrapnel rents in the lifeboat's hull with makeshift patches. This sub-lieutenant is now Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McIntosh.

By that time, 44 men had died of their wounds or exposure and of the remaining 38, most were in very poor condition. They dragged themselves ashore near São Paulo, Brazil, where they were discovered

the following morning by a group of fishermen. They fed them, and took them in canoes up river to a hospital run by nuns at Corupá. The British Consul was informed by a note scribbled by McVicar and the survivors were repatriated after their recovery.

McVicar's pregnant wife Nina, a sister with the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, who had been told he was missing on the night of March 13, 1941, received the news of his survival after an anxious wait, the following month. It later emerged that others of *Britannia*'s boats were picked up at sea, and that including those in McVicar's boat, 235 survived in all.

Before the incident McVicar had served aboard the SS *Transylvania*, which had been converted to an armed merchant cruiser. The crew was transferred to the Royal Naval Reserve and *Transylvania* took part in the Northern Patrol, which had been set up to intercept German merchant ships which were trying to get home from the neutral ports that had sheltered them since the outbreak of war. *Transylvania*'s contribution to the success of this blockade in the early months of the war, before the German acquisition

of Norwegian and French ports gave its merchantmen far more options, was the interception of the freighter *Mimi Horn*, which scuttled herself to avoid capture.

McVicar's sinking in *Britannia* was not to be the last of his wartime tribulations. The next vessel he sailed in, the troopship *California*, was in a convoy which was attacked by Focke Wulf Fw 200 bombers off the coast of Portugal. Severely damaged, she had to be sunk by torpedoes from a Canadian destroyer escort. McVicar found himself in the water, but was rescued with most of his crew within hours. He took part in the 1944 Normandy landings and helped to embark a unit from the Green Howards on D-Day. In 1945 he helped to bring home British prisoners of the Japanese.

In peacetime, having gained his mate's and master's tickets, he resumed his career with the Anchor Line. His ship was trapped for weeks in the canal zone during the Suez crisis of 1956. McVicar became the line's senior captain and subsequently transferred to the Currie Line and Runcmans.

He retired to his home in Troon in 1975. He is survived by his wife Nina (née Tawse) and three daughters.

ANNE HEWER

Anne Hower, OBE, worker for charity and the arts, died in Bristol on August 2 aged 81. She was born in Gloucestershire on July 28, 1916.

When Anne Hower was awarded an honorary MA by Bristol University in 1980, it was as social worker, benefactor, patron, impresario and citizen extraordinary. In particular, she has her niche in the history of the performing arts in this country through her chairmanship of Western Theatre Ballet, which became Scottish National Ballet.

She was fortunate when young to have been exposed to distinguished teachers and to have derived a lively interest in all the arts from her family. She learnt to temper imagination with determination, to emerge as a natural leader of challenging enterprises.

The first test of her qualities came with the establishment in Bristol of a settlement for young people who were living in squalid slum-areas of the city. This was a tough school of social work during the Depression years.

Then came the war: service with the Land Army was followed by appointment as warden of a large private residence in Weston-super-Mare which had been commandeered by the Government to sleep, feed and refresh women from munitions factories who were nearing nervous breakdowns from overlong working hours, undernourishment and frequent air raids. She renamed it Restbreak House.

In 1941 she married Tom Hower, Professor of Pathology at Bristol University, bringing up a family while helping him by extending frequent hospitality to his students. She also took over the chairmanship of the Bristol Association of Youth Clubs, a post she held for 15 years, combining charm with efficiency whenever action was needed and financial support required.

With this apprenticeship behind her she was appointed a JP in 1957, presiding over the Juvenile Courts. In 1977 she was appointed OBE for this service.

At the same time she used her interest in the arts to try to provide Bristolians with a wider range of options than could be hoped for from a city which had not only been ravaged by wartime bombing but, in addition, had a council disinclined to add to existing financial difficulties by initiating any extension to its minimal concern with culture.

It was on the City Art Gallery that Anne Hower first focused her attention, helping its newly-appointed director, Hans Schubert, to update its dowdy image and extend its appeal to a much wider public. Shocked by the City's refusal to allow him to acquire Henry Moore's *Draped Torso* (on offer at a bargain-basement price) on the ground that it was obscene, she recognised in Schubert someone who was as impatient with cant and the third-rate as she was.

Armed with an idea borrowed from Birmingham, that the private sector might be persuaded to help out where the public sector failed to meet its obligations, she pioneered the formation of a circle of Friends to help the gallery to acquire paintings and sculptures by 20th-century artists judged by art-historians, critics and enthusiasts to be the best of their kind. As chairman of the Friends she proceeded with Schubert to set the pace for the steady transformation of the gallery from one of merely local interest into what it is today.

Looking towards the future, she then gave her support to the newly-fledged Arncliffe which, under Jeremy Fry's direction, was pledged to



bringing the work of contemporary artists to public notice.

Simultaneously, she teamed up with Elizabeth West, who, like Lilian Bayliss and Marie Rambert before her, had sensed the need for a wider range of dance companies in Britain. This initiative resulted in the formation of Western Theatre Ballet. When its founder died in an Alpine accident, Anne Hower immediately took her place as chairwoman of the company. Under her guidance it flourished and quickly acquired a far wider reputation. This enabled it, when in imminent danger of bankruptcy for lack of civic support, to transfer itself to Glasgow as Scottish National Ballet. There she continued to guide its progress by chairing monthly board meetings for several years.

Having helped her husband and her family to create a remarkable garden out of barren wasteland surrounding their home at Vine House, Henbury, on the outskirts of Bristol, she chose during her last years to transfer her energies to securing the future of the university's botanic gardens, thereby enriching Bristol's amenities in yet another direction.

Her husband died in 1994. She is survived by two sons and two daughters.

LUTHER ALLISON

Luther Allison, blues guitarist, singer and composer, died from cancer in Madison, Wisconsin, on August 12 aged 57. He was born in Widenor, Arkansas, on August 17, 1939.

ALTHOUGH he first recorded in 1967, Luther Allison died just as he was attaining the recognition and status he

sought and deserved. His latest album has been topping the *Living Blues* charts since its release; he had just won three W.C. Handy awards (the blues equivalent of the Grammy), and he was due to headline Britain's biggest blues festival at Colne in Lancashire over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

An appearance at the Bottom Line in London last year

brought a typical three-hour burning performance. "We don't let up," he said, as he used his skills, honed to perfection in Chicago, to inspire a young audience with the music he loved.

Luther Allison had all the right credentials for a blues performer. He grew up in a cotton plantation, spent his Sundays in church and made his first musical instrument,

the "diddle bow", by nailing a piece of baling wire to the front porch of his home and playing it. "I saw my brother and other folks doing it, and I learnt how to play the diddle bow. And I loved that. I had people stop coming down the road, even people in their cars, asking where does this sound come from?"

The family moved to Chicago in 1951, which gave him the

chance to watch and mix with a whole generation of influential Chicago artists, including Jimmy Dawkins, Jimmy Johnson, Eddie C. Campbell and Syl Johnson. "Every day we was out there listening and watching these guys do their thing. They'd watch us and they protected us in every way they possibly could," he said.

He formed his first group, called, with unlikely precision, the Rolling Stones, in 1957, but after failing to find success, they disbanded and Allison went to support various West Side stalwarts such as Freddy King, Dawkins and Magic Sam. He recorded as part of a compilation for Bob Koester's Delmark records in 1967, before cutting a well-received album, *Love Me Mama*, in 1969.

That, together with some powerful performances at the Ann Arbor Blues Festival in 1969 and 1970, led to his becoming the first Chicago blues artist to sign with Berry Gordy's Motown corporation. But like bluesman Amos Milburn before him, Allison found that a public weaned on the Motown label's dance-scented soul music was not ready for the offerings of a guitarist and singer in the tradition of Muddy Waters and Buddy Guy.

He was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer and brain tumours on July 10 and found to his dismay that his medical insurance did not cover the cost of treatment. A benefit gig starring his guitar-playing son, Bernard, had been planned for September. He leaves a widow, Fannie Mae, two sons and seven stepchildren.

Disillusioned, he left America and moved to France in the late 1970s, settling permanently in the early 1980s. Constantly touring and recording, he gathered an increasing following. He dallied with funk and Jimi Hendrix-influenced rock before returning to his blues roots in 1988 with the album *Serious*. Like other musical exiles before him, he was then able to launch an attack on his home market, with the searing, hard blues of his American-recorded album *Soul Train* in 1994. This was hailed by listeners and critics alike, and signalled the rebirth of Allison's career and marked his climb into the top echelon of the blues. The even more successful *Blue Streak* came the following year, and garnered five Handy awards. Then came his latest album, *Reckless*, which further consolidated a worldwide reputation.

He was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer and brain tumours on July 10 and found to his dismay that his medical insurance did not cover the cost of treatment. A benefit gig starring his guitar-playing son, Bernard, had been planned for September. He leaves a widow, Fannie Mae, two sons and seven stepchildren.



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THE TIMES

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SPEED AND NOISE.

We publish below a further selection from the very large number of letters we are receiving daily from correspondents who complain of the noise and dangers of the road.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—In connection with the much-needed campaign against the unnecessary noise of London, it must be put to the credit of the omnibus people that they are now trying out pneumatic tyres [sic] on a number of omnibuses with the aim of equipping all their thousands of vehicles in this fashion. But solid tyres on omnibuses and motor-buses are not noisy only; it is more than probable that the vibration which they set up causes the collapse of houses, about which we are always reading in the newspapers. Moreover, in such working-class districts as I represent, where the pump-in-the-ski gas meters are used, there is a considerable loss to the poor caused by the vibrations which break the gas manometers. If your readers who live near traffic would give us their own experience on their different points, such evidence would be most valuable. Perhaps St Paul's itself has become imperilled by the rattle of solid tyres around it. Should their effect be so disastrous might not Parliament do worse than prohibit their use? Yours faithfully, W. WINDSOR

ON THIS DAY

August 22, 1928

Nearly 70 years ago, The Times was receiving a large postbag of letters complaining about the noise and speed of road traffic. One wonders what the authors of the following letters would say were they alive today.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—In today's issue of The Times, a letter is published on the subject of the speed of the Plymouth to London motor-coach. I had an exactly similar experience about a month ago on the long, straight, undulating part of the London road just after leaving Salisbury. There were in my case two motor-coaches, and out of curiosity to see at what speed these vehicles actually were travelling I tried to keep up with them, but soon gave it up, as it was between 40 and 45 miles an hour. Yours faithfully, C.R. PETERS (Indian Police on leave), S. Alexandra-terrace, Penzance, Aug. 21.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.
Sir,—At present the police have no means of judging the speed of motor-vehicles at all accurately except by the somewhat un-English method of the "police-trap". Surely it is possible to devise a speedometer with an indicator fixed in a prominent position in front of the vehicle showing the speed in figures as large as those used on the regulation number-plate.
Yours faithfully,
F.J. WEAVER
75 Chelsea-gardens, SW1.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.
Sir,—On the 1st of this month it was reported that on October 1 there would come into force a new order by the Minister of Transport making the maximum speed for heavy motor-cars 20 miles an hour instead of 12. In view of all the admitted dangers, caused mostly by failure to observe the law regarding speed limit, cannot the power of the engine used in each type of vehicle be restricted to that allowed and no more? A law to insist that a 20-mile-an-hour vehicle cannot have an engine capable of higher propulsion, would bring comparative safety to everyone, and would prevent wilful breaking of an order.
Yours obediently,
ENQUIRER.

Webster D. K. Wedderburn C. P. Wee
B. Webster P. Wedderburn C. P. Wee
Chuen Lik Wei H. J. Weir P. A.
Weathers P. C. Wells L. M. Wells T. F.
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C. White L. Whistance A. K. White B.
A. White J. C. White S. Whiteside J. E.
A. White J. C. White S. Whiteside J. E.

Whillock A; Willey J; Wilk A; Wilkojo J; Wilksham
Wickmore C; Wicks A; Widojo J; Widoaham
Widarta; Wightman J A; Williams A; Wilmshurst
A M; Wilcock W; Wilkes M E
Wilkes B S; Wilkes F J; Wilkison
J; Wilkinson C; Willard M J
Willefs T J; Williams A G
Williams A D; Williams A M; J
Williams C C; Williams C F
Williams D C; Williams D M
Williams F M; Williams F A
Williams N J; Williams P A
Williams R G; Williams S R
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Willis A; Willis L; Willis S J; Wilson
A M; Wilson A E; Wilson J; Wilson
K L; Wilson N J; Wynyard M
Winder R S; Winters R; Witter B A
Wix N M; Wong E; Wong H; Wong
Ah Hwan; Wong Al Geok; Wong
Ban Seng; Wong Chi Ling; Wong
Chi Sang; Wong Chik Wai
Wong Ching; Wong Ching Yee C
Wong Chor Ching; Wong Choy
Chung; Wong Chun Yung; Wong
Chun Sing; Wong Ee Ling; Wong
See Lit; Wong Foong Mut; Wong
Fung Yu; Wong Han Man; Wong
Hei Yin; Wong Huo Ching
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Juat Liang; Wong Ka Shun T; Wong
Kan Ming S; Wong Kam Sau J
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Wong Ping Eng; Wong Ping Yung
Wong Fui Ling; Wong Pui Yee
Wong Fui Yuk; Wong Sau Kuen D
Wong Shui Lin; Wong Shuk Han

De: Wong Shi Fong; E: Wong Si
 Ming Wong Shi; F: Hung Wong Shi
 G: Wong Sook Fung; Wong Soon
 seng; Wong See K: Wong Tai
 Ming Wong Tai; H: Woods Wong Tai
 Ling; Wong Wah I; Wong Wai Lam
 Wong Wai Leung; Wong Wai Ling;
 Wong Wai Man; Wong Wai Wen
 Hang; Wong Weng Yuen;
 Yan; Wong Yee Ping; Wong Yui
 Yee; Wong Yee Yee; Wong Yin
 Chan A; Wong Yui Tai; Wong
 Yuen Lok; Wong Yu Ching A; Wong
 Yuen Cheuk; Wong Yuen Ching
 Wong Yuen Kit; Wong Yuen Man;
 Wong Yuen Sung; Wong Ming Wai;
 Woo See Ming; Woo Siu Yui; Woo
 Yuen Kwai; Wood D; C: Woods J;
 Woodcock D J; Woods A; Woods D
 R; Woodward K; M: Wool A; J:
 WOOLDRIDGE C; Woolhouse M;
 Woon Pei; Fair; Wormald J;
 R: Wormald D D; Worth P J; Wrath-
 Carter G; Wright J K; Wright K A;
 Wright S C; W: Hong Wai Yee
 Kwok Choi C; Wu Meow Fung; Wu
 Wang Fan; Wu Wing Tai; Wui Sai
 Hoeng; Wyke C M; Wynne M E

Yao Pei Wui; Yao Nuik Siang;
 Yip Fung; Yip Fung; Yip Sow
 Yee; Yip Soon; Yip Yee
 Yip Tsun Leung; Yip Yoke Chau; Yip
 Yung Wei; Yip Yee; Yip Yuen Hee
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 Wing; Yiu Wei Keung D; Yui Wai
 Yee Yuenfai C T; Yue Chan Hing Y
 I; Yue Chin; Yung; Yee Poong Leung;
 Yee Poo Leuk; Yee Thann Song; Yee
 Yoke Tak; Yee Yee; Yee Y; Yee
 Hsiang; Yee Mui; Leung Yoo; Swan
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 Yipson C; Young Chun N; Young
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July 22 1997

Power to change baby's surname

Dawson v Wearmouth

Before Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment July 31]

The county court had jurisdiction, on an application by the father of a child of unmarried parents, to order that the child be known by the father's surname rather than that of the mother in which the child had been registered. But in exercising its discretion to do so the court was obliged to treat the registration as a major factor, not a matter of marginal significance.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Dawn Anne Elaine Wearmouth from an order of Judge Cooter in Taunton County Court on March 26, 1996, made on the application of Mark Richard Dawson that their child, Alexander Wearmouth, be known as Alexander Guy Dawson and that she be prohibited from causing or permitting the child to be known by any other name.

Mr Roger Hayward Smith, QC, and Richard Dawson, neither of whom appeared below, for the mother, Miss Catherine Durbin for the father.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST, giving the judgment of the court, said Alexander had been born on March 23, 1996. The mother's surname was that of her former

husband, from whom she had separated in 1993 and was now divorced. She had begun living with Alexander's father in April 1995 and they had separated less than a month after the birth. She had looked after the child since together with the two children of her former marriage.

She had registered the child as Alexander Guy Wearmouth on April 19, 1996. On May 13, Mark Dawson had applied under section 8 of the Children Act 1989 for an order that the child be known as Dawson, not Wearmouth, together with orders for parental responsibility and contact in relation to Alexander.

The judge, in making the order, had approached the question of how Alexander should be named as though the matter had come before him at the time the birth was to be registered and before the question was resolved.

Mr Hayward Smith had submitted there was no jurisdiction to entertain an application to change a child's name, as opposed to prohibit the change of a child's name, save under section 13 of the Children Act 1989.

Miss Durbin had contended that specific issue orders under section 8 of the 1989 Act were introduced to replace the court's unfettered pre-existing jurisdiction in wardship

and that to hold otherwise would leave the father of an illegitimate child without remedy if the mother abused the responsibility arising from performance of her duty to register the child's birth.

In the case of an illegitimate child that duty was the mother's alone, and the father could play no part without her consent and cooperation. Once the mother of an illegitimate child had fulfilled her duty to register and exercised her right to register the surname of her choice there was nothing in the Act to permit the registration to be changed.

Re B (Change of surname) ([1996] 1 FLR 791) established that there was jurisdiction under section 8 to make a prohibited steps order in relation to a proposed change of a child's surname.

The fact that the Family Proceedings Rules (SI 1991 No 1247 (L 20)) treated sections 8 and 13 of the 1989 Act as separate sections did not in itself establish that the jurisdiction to entertain an application to change a child's name was a different one to that of a prohibited steps order. Change of surname was an apt example of an area in which the court had power to make a specific issue order, so long as no residence order was in force.

The purpose of section 13 was to

emphasise that the rights and duties consequent upon the grant of a residence order were not so extensive as to permit a change of surname or a removal from the jurisdiction without either the written consent of every person having parental responsibility or the leave of the court.

But where there was no residence order either party had the right to apply to the court for any of the four orders mentioned in subsection (1) of section 8. Only if a residence order was in force should the application be brought under section 13.

In practice it was inconceivable that such an application would be brought other than by the parent in whose favour the residence order had been made, because only they would have the opportunity in practice to cause the child to be known by a new surname.

Their Lordships' clear conclusion was that the jurisdiction was there. Whether it should have been exercised was another matter. If there was a general principle underlying the appeal it was that the registration or change of a child's surname was a profound and not merely a formal issue, whatever the age of the child.

Any dispute on such an issue must be referred to the court for determination whether or not there was a residence order in force and whoever had or did not have parental responsibility. No disputed registration or change should be made unilaterally.

It was wholly inappropriate for the court to put registration on one side as of no more than marginal significance, let alone disregard it entirely. In that respect the judge had erred in principle so that the court ought to exercise the discretion afresh.

The mother's evidence showed that the child's first name, Alexander, had been chosen by the father. His name Wearmouth was the mother's actual name at the time it was chosen by her, as being that of Alexander's half brother and half sister. It was a perfectly natural and logical choice for the mother to have made and could not be criticised as alien merely because it was also the name of her former husband.

Those circumstances, coupled with the all important fact of registration, were very powerfully in the mother's favour and could only be displaced by strong countervailing considerations.

The considerations cited by the judge, that the child was in the mother's care and would be reminded of his father's place in his life by bearing his surname, would apply in virtually every case and could properly be regarded as routine in the circumstances.

The appeal would be allowed. Solicitors: Bates, Taunton; Dodson Harding, Wellington.

Prejudice in stress on defendant

Al-Fayed v Emanuel Antiques Ltd

Before Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Roch

[Judgment July 23]

In a case of inordinate and inexcusable delay in prosecuting an action, a defendant's severe stress and the disruption to his business resulting from the plaintiff's allegations of fraud and dishonesty could amount to prejudice of a kind sufficient to justify the court striking out the proceedings.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an interlocutory appeal by the defendant, Emanuel Antiques Ltd, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Dyson on November 19, 1996, of their application to strike out an action brought by the plaintiff, Mr Mohammed Al-Fayed.

Mr Stephen Nathan, QC, for the defendant, Mr Neil Kitchen for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that the proceedings arose out of sales of antique candleabra by the defendant, a company of which Mr Emanuel Naghi was principal director, to the plaintiff, who owned and controlled Harrods.

Two pairs were sold in 1988 for £77,000. The second transaction took place in 1987 when two pairs, described as being nineteenth century, were sold for £72,000.

The plaintiff's claim for breach of contract/misrepresentation alleged that nineteenth century was not an accurate description. The candleabra, he claimed, had been manufactured in the 1930s by one Ferdinando di Stefano in Italy.

Mr Naghi was arrested on allegations of criminal deception and forgery and interviewed by police. His evidence was that his arrest resulted from allegations made by Harrods security department. He had not been prosecuted.

Delay occurred in the conduct of the plaintiff's case. By October 1996, the defendant's solicitors pointed out a failure to comply with Order 3, rule 6 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and they issued a summons to strike out the plaintiff's action.

The judge found that there had been inordinate and inexcusable delay by the plaintiff's former solicitors between December 1994 and October 1996 and went on to consider the issue of prejudice to the defendant. He concluded that the defendant had not discharged the burden on them to show more than minimal prejudice.

Mr Nathan submitted that prejudice could consist of matters other than fading memories or the disappearance of witnesses. He referred the court to the evidence that "the stress [to Mr Naghi] of this civil litigation throughout the last six years has caused him to suffer stress and anxiety... which, however, are the various allegations of fraud and dishonesty which have been made, have not been particularised and have been

hanging over the defendant and its director".

Such matters as disruption to the defendant's business and the effect on it and its principal director of having those serious allegations outstanding could and did form prejudice of the type required to be established by an applicant who sought to strike out an action for want of prosecution.

Such prejudice was not confined to prejudice affecting the actual conduct of the trial, but included prejudice to an applicant's business interests: see per Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smaller (Transport Ltd)* ([1999] AC 1197, 1208).

The anxiety suffered by nurses whose professional competence was in question and delay in prosecuting allegations of negligence against a professional man have been considered by the Court of Appeal to be sufficient prejudice to justify striking out following *Biss v Lamberth, Southworth & Lewis (The Alva) (The Alva)* ([1978] 1 WLR 362).

The judge erred in overlooking that aspect of prejudice. As a matter of common sense, the existence of such allegations had to have had a grave and disruptive effect on the defendant's business and the reputation of Mr Naghi.

Having made serious allegations of fraud and dishonesty, it had been incumbent on the plaintiff to proceed with due and proper expedition. He had failed to do so.

The court was entitled to consider that type of prejudice, which was not dealt with by the judge, and to reach a conclusion on it. That conclusion was that the defendant had suffered prejudice and that the proper course, there having been inordinate and inexcusable delay which had added to that prejudice, was to strike the action out for want of prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, agreeing, said that Mr Kitchen said that all that was satisfactorily shown was the anxiety which serious allegations of fraud and dishonesty coupled with delay inevitably caused and he relied on *Trill v Sacher* ([1993] 1 WLR 1370, 1392) as showing that that was not enough.

The submission was rejected. The effect of the evidence on a fair and unprejudiced reading of it, was that the allegations of fraud and dishonesty had caused disruption to the defendant's business.

Even without evidence, it would not need much imagination to believe that they would have had that effect in a case where the participants were mostly known to each other and reputations were at stake and word of mouth.

It was important to emphasise that here, in contrast to *Trill v Sacher*, the allegations of fraud and dishonesty were directly related to the conduct of the defendant's business. Significant damage to the defendant's business interest had been shown.

Solicitors: Finers, D. J. Freeman.

Limit to benefit payable for support services

Regina v Sutton London Borough Council, Ex parte Harrison

Before Lord Justice Laws

[Judgment July 24]

A general counselling or support service was eligible to be met by housing benefit only where the service tended to preserve the condition of the relevant accommodation's fabric as the landlord undertook to provide it.

Mr Justice Laws so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing applications by seven tenants for judicial review of the decisions of the housing benefit review boards of the respondent local authorities to the effect that certain service charges included in their rents were ineligible for housing benefit purposes.

Paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 197), as substituted by regulation 2 of the (Housing Benefit) (General) Amendment Regulations (SI 1994 No 1003) provides:

"The following service charges shall not be eligible to be met by housing benefit... (i) charges in respect of general counselling or other support services... except where those services... relate to the provision of adequate accommodation."

Mr Richard Drabble, QC, and Miss Lorna Findlay for the applicants; Mr John Howell, QC, for Sutton and Swansea; Mr Richard Rundell for Welwyn Hatfield; St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Ex parte Sandys.

Paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 197), as substituted by regulation 2 of the (Housing Benefit) (General) Amendment Regulations (SI 1994 No 1003) provides:

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Paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 197), as substituted by regulation 2 of the (Housing Benefit) (General) Amendment Regulations (SI 1994 No 1003) provides:

personal needs of the tenant they would not for that reason be taken out of paragraph 1(i)(i).

Against that, the respondents had argued that the sub-paragraph included only such services as were designed and intended to help the tenant maintain the physical fabric of his accommodation.

In his Lordship's judgment, the question was not whether the services were directed to maintaining the claimant in his accommodation, but whether they were directed to ensuring that his accommodation was adequate.

The phrase "the provision of adequate accommodation" was to be read narrowly.

The policy of the sub-paragraph was exceptionally to include within the cover provided by housing benefit charges for counselling and other services such as might tend to preserve the condition of the accommodation's fabric as the landlord undertook to provide it.

Solicitors: Mr Richard Poyner, Hoxney; Mr Duncan Forbes, Crickhowell and Carruthers & Co, Cambridge; Mr Timothy Teal, Sutton; Mr Peter Keith-Lucas, Swansea; Mr David W. Riddle, Welwyn Hatfield.

Distinguishing past and future losses

Coates v Curry

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Auld

[Judgment July 29]

It was not appropriate, in determining damages for personal injury, to lump together past and future loss of earnings without allocating or indicating a means of identifying a specific figure for each. Past losses were generally more easily assessable and it was necessary to know their size so as to calculate interest on special damages.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the defendant, William Curry, against an award of damages for personal injury by Mr Justice Holland on October 10, 1996 against the defendant, Hugh Robert Coates.

Mr James Wadsworth, QC, for the defendant Mr Benet Hytner, QC, for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said the plaintiff had given up his job as a fireman in July 1986 because of a bad back and had done no work since. In June 1988 he had suffered further serious injuries in an accident for which the defendant

was responsible. His case was that but for the those injuries he would have started a light industrial job.

The judge had found that the plaintiff's back was in a bad condition before June 1988, but regarded it as having a significant residual capacity which had been very substantially impaired by the injuries suffered in 1988.

The judge had used a broad brush approach to arrive at damages for loss of earnings of £73,157, taking the claimed annual losses over the previous eight years and awarding no separate sum for future loss of earnings.

Mr Wadsworth had submitted that the judge was wrong to take a broad brush approach to the whole claim for loss of earnings. He should have made separate assessments under each head to distinguish the awards of special and general damages.

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In his Lordship's view, the judge had made inconsistent findings about the effect of the plaintiff's bad back and the subsequent accident on the plaintiff's capacity

for work. He had wrongly lumped together past and future losses of earnings in one sum without allocating or indicating a means of identifying a specific figure for each.

As part of that error he had wrongly applied a broad brush approach to both heads of damage, rather than the conventional multiplier/multiplicand method.

It was a long established practice to treat separately past and future losses. There were two good reasons for doing so:

First, past losses were generally more readily assessable and tended to have fewer uncertainties than future losses; second, since *Jefford v Gee* ([1970] 2 QB 130), it was necessary for the purpose of calculating the interest to be awarded on special damages.

In most cases past loss of earnings was calculable by reference to the established period of loss and from evidence as to earning potential during that period but for the injury and to inability to achieve that potential because of the injury.

The court could usually reflect the differences between the two

earnings figures and any uncertainties in them by way of a percentage discount. There was no need for a broad brush approach which should only be considered where the uncertainties were so many or so great that a reasoned calculation, even of chance, would be artificial.

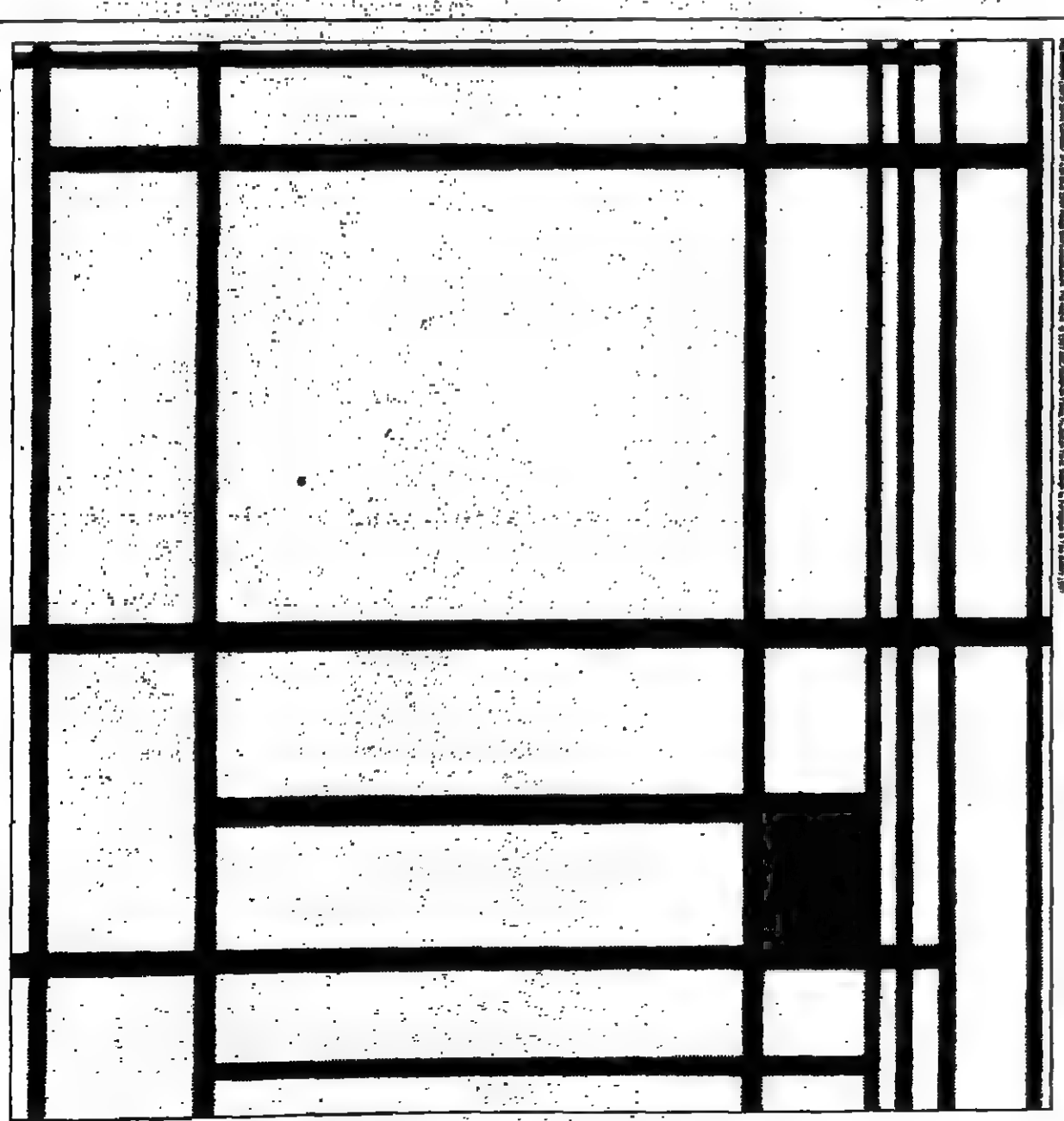
The judge had a clearly identified period of past loss, evidence of what the plaintiff could have earned had he found employment of the sort he claimed would have been available but for the accident, and medical evidence of his pre-existing disability.

The judge could and should have made a finding as to the plaintiff's earning potential during the period but for the accident and the effect on it of the accident injuries.

His Lordship made findings on those issues and allowed the appeal so as to substitute total damages of £18,114.40.

Lord Justice Hobhouse delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Hirst agreed with both.

Solicitors: Hay & Kilner, Newcastle upon Tyne; Addison Lister, Newcastle upon Tyne.



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Collect four differently numbered tokens from The Times this week and attach them to the application which will appear again tomorrow. You will receive a pack containing a Passport to Europe card and the Relais and Châteaux 1997 International Guide with details of the 178 participating hotels. You could choose Chewton Glen, Hampshire, above, where the owners have preserved the atmosphere of a large private home. You will also receive details of how to apply for your Le Lunch voucher, entitling you to enjoy a gourmet lunch at one of 175 Relais and Châteaux restaurants in 13 European countries for just £35.

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We have five prizes for lucky readers to win: a stay at a Relais & Châteaux hotel or a gourmet Le Lunch in Paris. Our winner of Wednesday's competition, who will enjoy Le Lunch in Paris is: Miss S. Ross of London. (The answer to, in how many countries can Times readers enjoy Le Lunch for just £35, is 13.)

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NEWS

Two-car families under attack

John Prescott set out to make the two-car family a relic of the past with promises of a transport network so good that people would want to switch to trains and buses.

The Deputy Prime Minister announced a range of ideas to entice drivers from their cars — including road tolls and higher parking charges — but insisted that he did not intend simply to tax motorists off the roads. He called having two cars a symptom of the failure of the public transport system rather than a sign of prosperity. Page 1

Ex-smokers still face cancer risk

Smoking for more than 25 years triggers a biological switch that appears permanent and leads to lung cancer, according to a new American study. This may explain why long-term former smokers are still at a high risk. Page 1

GCSE record

A record-breaking dozen top-grade GCSEs by a comprehensive school boy whose family has no television reopened the debate about its impact on young minds. Pages 1, 8, 9

Blair acts

Tony Blair intervened to defuse the controversy over Robert Wareing, 66, the "suicidal" Labour MP whose cry for help was ignored by a party leadership accused of authoritarianism, saying he would meet him. Page 2

Son acquitted

A millionaire shoe-shop businessman who fosters underprivileged children spoke of his relief after an adopted son was acquitted of assaulting a policeman. Page 3

Millions break

A record August Bank Holiday exodus gets under way today with an estimated five million people leaving home for a short break. Page 4

Pollution patrol

Ministers visiting continental European cities have been told to use public transport and report back on successful measures to combat air pollution. Page 5

£139m lost

Taxpayers lost up to £139 million because the last Government went ahead with the sale of military married quarters to a Japanese-led consortium. Page 6

Vegetarian has new strain of CJD

A 24-year-old woman who has been vegetarian for the past 12 years has the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease which scientists think is linked to "mad cow" disease. The first clinical case of BSE was recorded in cattle only in 1986, a year after Clare Louise Tomkins, of Tonbridge in Kent, is said by her family to have stopped eating any meat. Page 1

Lake victim

Detectives trying to unravel the "Lady of the Lake" mystery are waiting to talk to the holidaying husband of a woman who disappeared 21 years ago. Page 7

Out of line

A "get away from it all" sporting estate with self-catering lodges has been excluded from English Tourist Board guides because it does not wish to offer visitors telephones. Page 10

Queen climbdown

The Queen was invited to visit anywhere in India she chooses during her six-day visit, reversing a suggestion that she should not go to Amritsar. Page 12

Mir challenge

When Russian cosmonauts begin a series of difficult and dangerous space walks to repair the Mir space station, the fate of one of the nation's last symbols of greatness will be in their hands. Page 13

Volcano grumbles

Montserratians began registering for a voluntary evacuation of their volcano-stricken island but most were still angry about "insufficient" aid. Page 14

Clinton accusation

A new damaging disclosure involving Democratic Party funding alleged a company chairman seeking a US policy change towards Japan met Bill Clinton in the Oval Office. Page 15



Contamination experts were called to a Halifax branch in London after toxic fumes came out of its cash machine. Page 1

BUSINESS

Co-op move: The Crown Prosecution Service has suspended its prosecution of Andrew Regan, the entrepreneur behind the aborted £1.2 billion Co-operative Wholesale Society bid. Page 25

Economy: A strong pound and sharply falling export prospects have led the Confederation of British Industry to cut its forecast of growth next year from 2.7 to 2.5 per cent. Page 25

Good to talk: MCI has told British Telecom it will renegotiate merger terms. Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 19.6 points to close at 4987.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 102.5 to 101.6 after a fall from \$1.5924 to \$1.5873 and from DM2.9563 to DM2.9236. Page 28

SPORT

Crickets: Australia were on top at the Oval after the first day of the final Test. Having dismissed England for 180, they had reached 77 for two. Glenn McGrath took seven wickets. Page 48

Rugby union: The Rugby Football Union have little time to replace Jack Rowell as England coach. Mike Slemmon and Dick Best are the leading candidates. Page 42

Swimming: Alexander Popov, in his first top competition since being stabbed, won the 100 metres freestyle at the European championship in Seville. Page 46

Golf: Severiano Ballesteros, Europe's Ryder Cup team captain, was cautioned for slow play in the first round of the Smurfit European Open in Dublin. Page 46

ARTS

Festival fun: Scottish Opera and Nottingham Playhouse have given Edinburgh an operatic treat — the original, camp version of Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Page 32

Prom debut: Tomorrow a leading Russian composer of the post-Shostakovich generation brings his *Old Russian Circus Music* to the Proms. Page 32

Party pooper: The days have gone when we believed that going to a festival was anything other than a chance to get flooded in conditions that resemble a refugee camp. Page 33

Theme on themes: An Indian company is presenting a wonderful *Macbeth* on a river raft, with the scenes back to front and battles raging as boats pass. Page 34

FEATURES

Costing you dearly: Ending an engagement can be a minefield of modern etiquette and potentially ruinous litigation. Julian Champkin offers advice on the best way to break up. Page 16

Too rude: A police inspector has reluctantly advised Londoners to be rude to strangers. What a dismal outlook. Londoners are already rude; they don't need official encouragement, argues Rachel Campbell-Johnston. Page 16

Death passing by: A man who was involved in the same gay scene as Andrew Cunanan tells how he came close to death at the hands of the reputed serial killer and murderer of the fashion designer Gianni Versace. Page 17

Bank on it: The benefits on offer for students as the banks race to secure their grant cheques, plus, degree-course vacancies in engineering and technology. Pages 35-39

For Israel, peace is a complicated game of chess — and of mirrors. Benjamin Netanyahu, accused of not wanting to pay its price, has to deal with the Palestinians, the Islamic terrorists of Hamas and Hezbollah, and the ultra-orthodox Jews in his own ranks. As ever, Israel has to show its muscles while at the same time holding out its hand. — *La Repubblica*

Captain William McVicar, wartime lifeboat hero; Anne Hewer, charity worker; Luther Allison, blues singer. Page 21

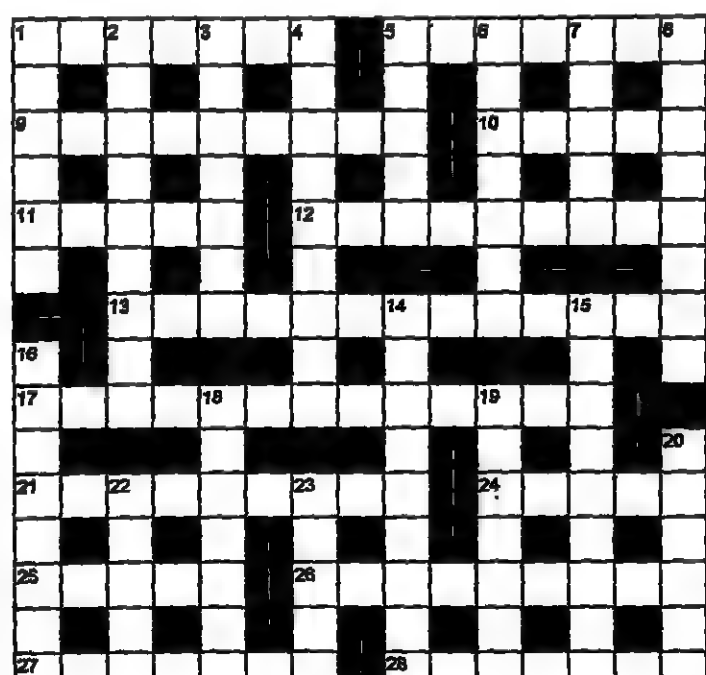
Labour scandals; the importance of science; Amritsar; and the Queen; Montserrat. Page 19

TOMORROW
IN THE TIMES

CAR 97
A guide to caravan and motorhome breaks for the Bank Holiday weekend

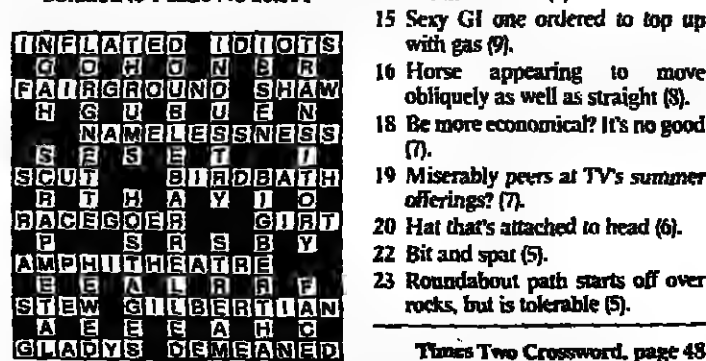
WEEKEND MONEY
A three-page investigation discovers the best buys in investment trusts

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,565



- ACROSS**
- Provided back with shrub — a stip, perhaps (7).
 - Rage — it's dissipated in spats (7).
 - Unknown Conservative featured in dodgy scoop (9).
 - I have invested in Greek supplier (5).
 - German boy harbouring love for girl (5).
 - Pick a card and manage to beat it (3,3).
 - Cat and owl were suffering equally (2,3,4).
 - Bowler's Southern equivalent in famous sporting contest (8,5).
 - Scrubbed and rinsed (6,3).
 - Music that's still heard (5).
 - Match taking right direction in time (5).
- DOWN**
- European Field Marshal (6).
 - Officer commanding yeoman to impound dogs — one's getting out (9).
 - Jacket included in attire (7).
 - Chance to see game deferred with king, note, under attack (4,5).
 - Part-time soldiers work up to major (5).
 - Genuine, if affected, actress (7).
 - Such a fish always has limited length (5).
 - Numbers, and what they can afford (8).
 - Accountant, one seen at a number of concert-halls (9).
 - Sexy GI one ordered to top up with gas (9).
 - Horse appearing to move obliquely as well as straight (8).
 - Be more economical? It's no good (7).
 - Miserably peers at TV's summer offerings? (7).
 - Hat that's attached to head (6).
 - Bit and spat (5).
 - Roundabout path starts off over rocks, but is tolerable (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,564



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HOURS OF DARKNESS
Sun rises 5:57 am Sun sets 8:03 pm
Moon rises 11:07 am Moon sets 11:04 pm
Last quarter August 25
London 8:09 pm to 5:52 am
Bristol 8:16 pm to 5:03 am
Edinburgh 8:22 pm to 5:39 am
Manchester 8:22 pm to 5:12 am
Preston 8:27 pm to 5:03 am

FORECAST
General: S and central England, E Anglia and S Wales mainly cloudy with patchy light rain. Humid. N Wales, N England and much of Scotland and Ireland dry and mainly sunny. N and W Scotland breezy with showers.
Tonight: S England warm and muggy with low cloud and mist. Wales and N England cloudy with mist and fog. Cooler with more broken cloud in E and NE England. Showers in W Scotland and N Ireland will die out.
Monday: E Anglia, E Midlands warm, humid, mainly cloudy with patchy light rain. Wind light, southwest. Max 26C (79F).
Tuesday: S England, W Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, IOM, Central N England, NE England: mainly dry, patchy cloud, sunny spells. Less humid. Wind light, west to southwest. Max 22C (72F).
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BUSINESS EDITOR: Patience Wheatcroft
FRIDAY AUGUST 22 1997

CBI cuts growth forecast as strong pound hits exports

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE strong pound and sharply falling export prospects threaten to spoil Britain's economic party, the Confederation of British Industry fears. As consumer spending powers the economy ahead in the short term, the CBI has cut its forecast of growth next year from 2.7 to 2.5 per cent.

Manufacturers' export orders have slumped to their lowest ebb for almost five years, according to the latest monthly survey by the employers' organisation, begun on July 24. A plurality of 37 per cent said their export order books were below normal, one of the worst figures since the manufacturing slump of the

early 1980s. Output is still growing quite strongly and the CBI reckons official figures underestimate the improvement in manufacturing. Domestic orders are also buoyant, leaving the total order book almost annual rise in consumer spending, the fastest growth rate since the end of the last spending boom in

1989, powered growth of the whole economy in the second quarter of this year, according to new figures from the Office of National Statistics. Spending rose by fully 1.5 per cent between March and June, the biggest quarterly gain since the Lawson boom of 1988.

Gross domestic product expanded by 0.9 per cent between the first and second quarters, making an annual growth rate for the economy of 3.4 per cent. This was in line with City forecasts, but comes ahead of the surge of spending linked to windfalls in July.

Commentators noted anxiously, however, that investment is stagnating. Fixed capital formation edged up only 0.1 per cent during the three months to end-June, and was only 1 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The CBI's decision to cut its growth forecast from 3.1 per cent this year to 2.5 per cent in 1998 puts it just below the average of independent forecasts. It stems largely from the continuing strength of the pound, which the CBI says is still "uncomfortably high". Three months ago, CBI fore-

casters assumed that the Sterling index would average 91 against yesterday's close of 101.6. Now they assume an average 99, a haven from the uncertainties of the euro.

If sterling was 10 per cent higher, the economy might grow by only 2 per cent next year. For that reason, the CBI maintains its usual hostility to any further rise in interest

rates. Like the Treasury, it assumes that the summer growth in big-ticket consumption is a blip.

Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate director, said it was a basically up-beat forecast, with above-trend growth and low inflation this year subsidising gently into growth at around the long-term trend of 2½ to 2¾ per cent in 1998 and for the next four years.

The CBI still projects that inflation (excluding mortgage interest) will be 2.7 per cent next year and remain a mile above the Treasury target of 2.5 per cent. Mr Junankar said this was "as close to the target as makes no difference". The economy should create about 1 per cent more jobs a year, the CBI said.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4978.0	(+19.4)
Yield	3.32%	
FTSE All share	2242.5	(+7.89)
Nikkei	1917.12	(+45.11)
New York	7865.37	(-63.89)
Dow Jones	953.38	(-12.7)
S&P Composite		
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5¼%	(7¼%)
Long Bond	97½%	(87¼%)
Yield	6.58%	(6¼%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth interbank	7¼%	(7¼%)
Libor long gill		
Rate (Sep)	114½	(115¼)
STERLING		
New York	1.8905*	(1.8835)
London		
\$	1.8872	(1.8825)
DM	2.9236	(2.9567)
FF	1.5160	(1.5245)
SFR	2.4082	(2.4311)
Yen	186.63	(188.07)
£ index	101.6	(102.5)
\$\$\$\$ DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.8430*	(1.8554)
FF	6.2100*	(6.2550)
SFR	1.5160	(1.5245)
Yen	117.88*	(117.60)
£ index	108.2	(108.5)
Tokyo close Yen	117.78	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Nov)	£16.70	(£16.05)
GOLD		
London close	£324.05	(£322.85)
* denotes midday trading price		

Plastic card spree fuels consumer boom

By OUR FINANCIAL EDITOR

THIS summer's consumption boom is a plastic one. Sales using the big four credit and debit cards in July were almost a quarter higher than in July last year, the Credit Card Research

Group claims. Use of plastic has been growing fast, with a marked acceleration this year as Visa and Mastercard credit cards catch up with the hitherto faster-growing but smaller use of Switch and Delta debit cards. Card sales grew by 15.5 per cent year-

-on-year in the first quarter, by 17.5 per cent in the three months to July, but by 24.9 per cent in July itself. Growth of debit card sales was similar in July, concentrated in key sectors. These were household goods, which include do-it-yourself items as well as domes-

tic appliances and which were up 38 per cent motoring, which includes most items except car purchase, up by 35 per cent, partly influenced by Budget impost on petrol; and spending on entertainment, which jumped by a third.

MCI ready to discuss terms of BT merger

By ERIC REGULY

MCI, the US telecoms group, has told British Telecom that it is willing to renegotiate the "economic terms" of their proposed £14 billion merger.

The statement came as the Federal Communications Commission in the US cleared the proposed merger, eliminating the last regulatory barrier to the deal.

The City interpreted the statement as a climbdown by MCI which, until yesterday, had signalled that it was unwilling to accept a lower price despite its profits warning last month. The City now believes that BT will be able to reduce the price by between 5 per cent and 20 per cent, though both companies said "there can be no assurance as to the outcome of the discussions".

The markets took the view that BT has a good chance of securing more favourable terms. BT shares rose more than 7 per cent, closing up 29p at 412½p, while MCI shares fell 40p (£3.77) in morning trading, to just below \$31.

James Ross, analyst at ANB Amro Hoare Govett, said: "BT's share price will greatly depend on the degree of the renegotiation." Anthony Ferrara, analyst with AG Edwards in the US, said: "If BT doesn't ask for a reduction in terms, there are people in New York who would like to sell them the Brooklyn Bridge."

MCI would not say what triggered the statement, which was issued immediately after an MCI management meeting early yesterday morning. An MCI official would say only that MCI "recognised that shareholders' interests were at stake", referring to the mounting institutional pressure on BT to renegotiate the terms.

Institutions began to withdraw their support for the merger, which would create a global telecoms operation called Concert, in July, when MCI said that this year's losses in the local market could reach \$800 million — more than twice the amount originally forecast.

Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, claimed he was surprised by the profits warning, though shareholders were not convinced, noting that he and two other BT executives sit on MCI's board and have been planning the merger for almost a year.

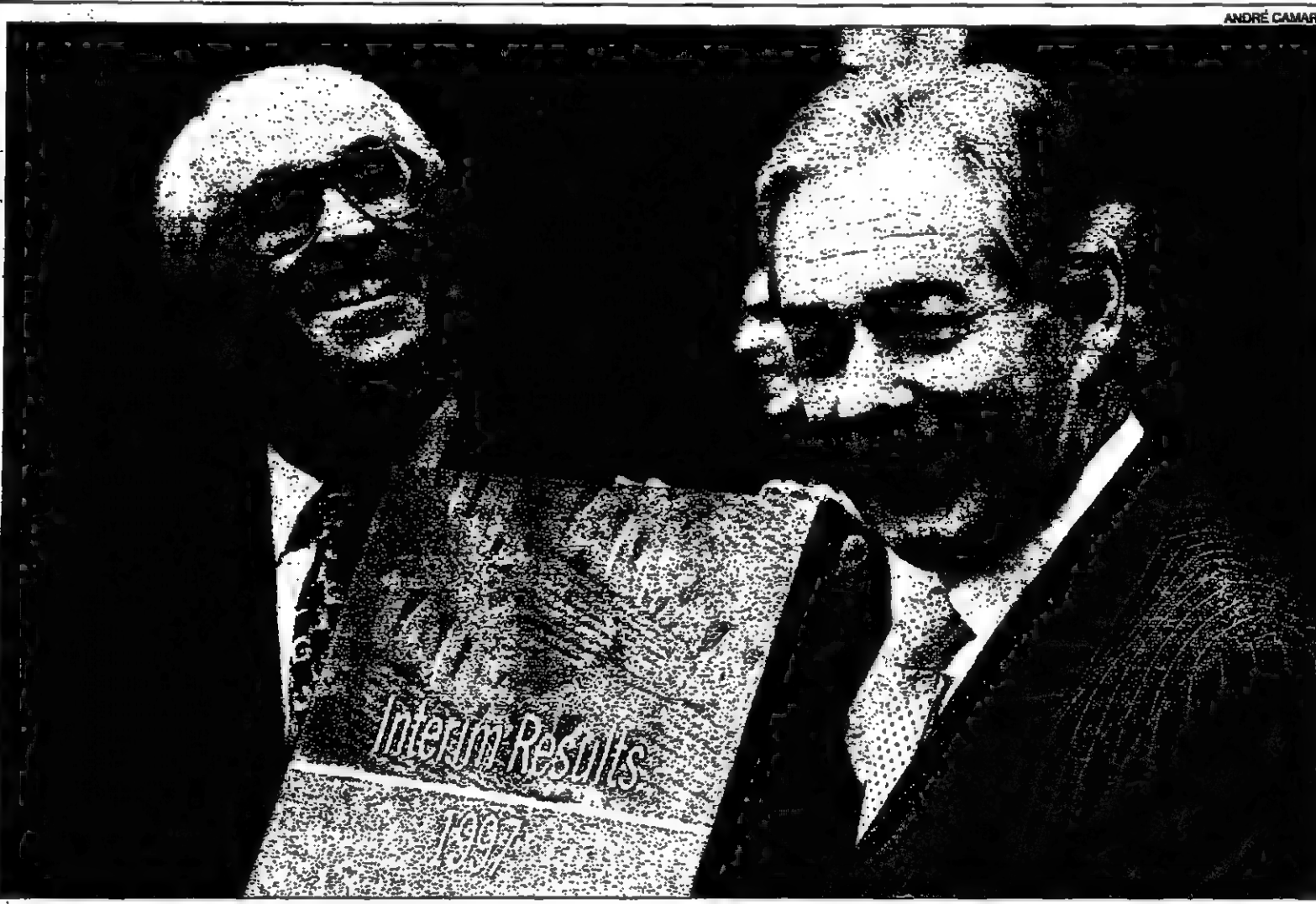
Some fund managers called on BT to abandon the deal, saying MCI would have continued problems penetrating local markets and that MCI's core business — its long-distance and overseas call services — were under pressure from intense competition.

BT would have faced severe penalties if it scrapped the merger, including a £150 million walk-away penalty, and would have risked a barrage of costly breach-of-contract lawsuits in the US courts.

Some analysts said preserving the pay and options packages of MCI's directors was probably behind their new willingness to negotiate. Bert Roberts, the MCI chairman who is to become co-chairman of Concert, will receive more than \$80 million for his MCI shares and a further \$8 million in pay, bonuses and other incentives if he remains with Concert for three years.

BT is due to announce the results of an extensive review of the merger and MCI's operations by the end of next week. There is speculation that BT will cut investment programmes in an effort to reduce losses in the local operations.

Commentary, page 27



Looking up: Mike Blackburn, left, chief executive, and Jon Foulds, chairman, in buoyant mood after the Halifax's interim results yesterday

Halifax could spend £6bn on acquisitions

By CAROLINE MERRELL

HALIFAX emerged as one of the biggest predators on the high street yesterday, claiming it could spend up to £6 billion on buying other financial services organisations.

In the six months to June 30, pre-tax profits grew by 8.8 per cent to £802 million, buoyed by a 10 per cent increase in net mortgage lending to £5.2 billion, maintaining the Halifax's position as the UK's biggest mortgage lender with a 20 per cent share. However, in terms of net new mortgages, its share fell to around 10 per cent in the first half of the year, compared to 16.2 per cent for Lloyds TSB, owner of Cheltenham & Gloucester.

Adjusted earnings were 21.2p a share, up 8.2 per cent on a pro-forma basis. There is

no interim dividend and the final dividend, yet to be declared, is due in May 1998.

The bank, which made its stock market debut on June 2, admitted it was sitting on around £3.5 billion of surplus capital, which it was hoping to use to fund the purchase of another company. It did not rule out a joint venture.

Jon Foulds, chairman, said: "The industries we are in are rationalising, there will be opportunities for us." The Halifax had successfully absorbed the Clerical Medical and the Leeds Permanent Building Society and did not want to be pushed into making the wrong purchase. Both Mr Foulds and Mike Blackburn, chief executive, indicated that the prices for financial

service companies were too high, and they could be forced to find another way of using up the capital.

Mr Blackburn said: "We have no philosophical hang-up over capital repatriation", indicating that the company would consider buying back shares to enhance earnings or pay an increased dividend.

Despite Halifax savers being able to move their money since February, the bank managed to increase net retail balances by £3.6 billion. Mr Blackburn shrugged off the suggestion that societies remaining mutual, which claim to be able to offer better saving and borrowing rates, would present a threat.

Times, page 28

Germans to review key rate weekly

THE Bundesbank has taken further steps to forestall any run on the mark by telling the markets that it will take week-by-week decisions each Tuesday on its stock repurchase, or repo, rate, the key interest rate for money market adjustments (Graham Searjeant writes).

The German central bank again left its formal discount and Lombard rates at 2.5 and 4.5 per cent, respectively. However, the mark recovered as commentators concluded that there was now active argument in the bank over whether to tighten monetary policy for the first time in five years.

Sterling fell three pence to DM292.36 on foreign exchanges.

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MAID in takeover talks

By FRASER NELSON

DAN WAGNER, the chief executive of MAID, is in takeover talks with the management of rival Knight-Ridder Information which could lead to the creation of the world's largest on-line information provider.

The two companies are looking at a reverse takeover of MAID which would leave Mr Wagner at the helm of an enlarged group with a market value of some £700 million.

The talks come four months after Knight-Ridder, America's largest on-line information company, was placed on the auction block by its parent company.



Wagner: enlarged group

tion for its rival, almost 40 per cent above its own £220 million market valuation. The extra cash would be found through complex debt agreements from a wide range of

banks. Knight-Ridder has cut off talks with all potential suitors, including Reed Elsevier and Reuters. The announcement came as no surprise in the City, after dealers had caught wind of the talks earlier in the week.

MAID's shares, which had jumped 20 per cent since Monday, eased 2p to 235p on disappointment that the company itself is unlikely to fall victim to a predator.

Analysts gave the prospect of a deal an enthusiastic welcome. One said: "This is the reason people have been buying MAID shares. MAID has been punching above its weight — this deal will give it the weight."

Maverick poised, page 29

Regan case discontinued

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE Crown Prosecution Service has discontinued its prosecution of Andrew Regan, the 31-year-old entrepreneur behind the aborted £1.2 billion bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society. He was accused of accepting confidential CWS documents.

The cases against Mr Regan's partner, David Lyons, and Allan Green, a former CWS executive, have also been discontinued. All were awarded defence costs, believed to exceed £100,000, by City of London Magistrates Court yesterday.

The CPS will take another look at the case once the police investigations are finished. If there is enough evidence, pro-



Regan: looking at advisers

ceedings could be reinstated, it said. The CPS took over a private prosecution from the CWS in June. Mr Green, who the CWS alleged passed commercially sensitive documents

to Mr Regan, was charged with theft. The other two were charged with procuring theft and handling stolen goods.

Ian Burton, the solicitor for Mr Regan and Mr Lyons, said they had emerged "with no stain on their characters. They are absolutely delighted."

Greater Manchester Police confirmed last night that its commercial fraud squad was continuing its investigations.

Mr Burton said that Mr Regan and Mr Lyons "will be considering their position in relation to the professionals that advised them". Three directors at Hambros, the merchant bank, and a lawyer from Travers Smith Braithwaite resigned in the wake of the affair. The firms advised Mr Regan.

Pension funds see highest returns in two years

By GRAHAM SEARLE
FINANCIAL EDITOR

PENSION funds' portfolios enjoyed their highest returns for nearly two years in the second quarter of this year, thanks to timely investment in Japan and the boom on Wall Street. But they underperformed at home.

On calculations made by the W.M. Company, covering three quarters of the sector, UK funds averaged a total return including income and capital growth of 5.6 per cent over the three months to June 30.

This beats the return of 5.2 per cent shown by the FTSE all-share index over the period. But the pension funds' own UK equities averaged a return of only 4.6 per cent, the fourth consecutive quarter in which professional fund managers have not been able to match the index average.

They lagged behind because they had proportionately low investments in big banks and pharmaceutical shares, especially HSBC and SmithKline Beecham, which led the index's advance.

John Williams of W.M. said: "Managers have been anticipating some correction in the market. It is likely they would have reduced their holdings mainly in shares which had shown relatively strong performance."

Over the past two years, the average holding of UK shares in big funds has come back from 53 to 51 per cent, and from 57 to 54 per cent among small funds. Funds have withdrawn £20 billion out of UK shares but rapidly rising prices have kept the proportion of UK equities up.

The survey was the last before pension funds lost the right to reclaim tax paid on dividends, which could affect future portfolio strategy.

UTV chief signals confidence by buying shares worth £8.4m

By ERIC REGULY

THE millionaire chairman of Ulster Television signalled his confidence in the future of the ITV network with the purchase yesterday of £8.4 million of shares.

John McGuckian, who has been non-executive chairman of UTV for six years, bought four million shares at 210p, raising his shareholding to almost 4.7 million shares.

Other directors bought smaller amounts at the same price.

Mr McGuckian is thought

to be one of the wealthiest men in the province. He owns a textiles company, sits on the board of Allied Irish Bank and is the chairman of the Industrial Development Board of Northern Ireland.

UTV shares rose 38½p, to 257½p, partly because the company announced that it is considering a share buyback or the payment of a special dividend. The rise gives Mr McGuckian a quick £1.1 million paper profit.

John McGuckian, UTV's general manager, said: "We certainly felt that we had a lot of confidence in the company

and we wanted to underpin this by putting our money where our mouth is."

The directors' purchases came as Scottish Media raised its stake in UTV from 14.9 per cent to 18.2 per cent through

Tempus 28

the purchase of 1.67 million additional shares at 210p. Scottish Media has stated that it will buy up to 29.9 per cent and is not ruling out a takeover offer.

A bidding war for UTV

seems unlikely, although Scottish Media's investment was thought to have been triggered by speculation that United News & Media was considering a bid of its own.

The company paid a special dividend in mid-1996 of £1 a share (the equivalent of 20p after a five-for-one split).

Mr McGuckian said that a decision on a buyback or special dividend "would be made in the reasonably near future". The company's cash pile stands at £12 million.

Pre-tax profits in the half year to the end of June were £3.64 million, down from

£4.67 million in the same period a year ago, on turnover from continuing TV operations of £16.98 million, which was down marginally. The 1996 figure included an exceptional gain of £333,000 related to the company's investment portfolio.

UTV said that it had a disappointing second quarter but its regional service continued to grow in popularity, capturing a 39.5 per cent viewing share against 33.2 per cent for the average.

An interim dividend of 2.5p, up from 2.25p, is due to be paid on October 1.

Gas sales teams continue to anger customers

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GAS companies fighting for household business are continuing to anger customers with aggressive sales pitches, according to new figures from the Gas Consumers Council.

This is despite intervention last year from the Office of Fair Trading and repeated controversy over how energy companies approach homes.

More than a third of people who complained to the council last month were annoyed at sales tactics, including plays such as telling householders that British Gas had gone out of business.

Sue Slippman, director of the council, which published for the first time a league table of offenders, said: "There is obviously more to be done by the companies. We appreciate that there will be teething problems but the league table is intended to keep companies focused on action they should take."

Top of the first league table for dubious doorstep selling was Atlantic Gas Alliance, which received 34 complaints but was not criticised on any other count.

Overall Eastern Natural Gas had the most complaints with 83, followed by Calortex at 81.

The council received 291 complaints last month with 102 relating to sales tactics.

Atlantic Gas, Eastern and Calortex all said they had taken complaints seriously but the numbers were small in the context of their business. Eastern said it had sacked "a handful" of salespeople.

Last year the Office of Fair Trading rebuked WebGas for aggressive selling on the doorstep after a stream of complaints from customers in the South West of England — the first area to be opened to competition.

The Ipswich-based company said that "while discussions are still at an early stage, it is likely that any offer... is likely to be at a significant premium to the current ordinary share price."



John Clement, chairman of Ransomes, right, and Peter Wilson, chief executive

Ransomes in takeover talks

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES in Ransomes, the lawnmower and specialist industrial truckmaker, leapt 75 per cent yesterday after the company announced that it has received a takeover approach.

The Ipswich-based company said that "while discussions are still at an early stage, it is likely that any offer... is likely to be at a significant premium to the current ordinary share price."

The statement sent the shares leaping ahead from 29p — close to their year low — to 51p.

Analysis believes that, given that its US industrial division is one of the most successful parts of the group, it is most likely that an American company has made an approach.

Ransomes has had a difficult year. The company's shares lost more than a third

of their value in one day in March after it issued a profits warning. It blamed softness in its commercial grass machinery market, which supplies mowers to local authorities and golf courses.

In the event, interim profits were down from £6.7 million to £5.5 million. The company is expected to produce full-year profits of about £11 million.

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Inchcape strategist resigns

By MARK COURT

INCHCAPE, the international distribution group, yesterday lost its director of strategic development when Andrew Cummins put in his resignation.

Mr Cummins, 47, will not be replaced on Inchcape's main board. Instead, the strategic role will be carried out by John Whiteman, group development director.

Mr Cummins was instrumental in clearing Inchcape's borrowings by selling Testing Services for £30 million and offloading Bain Hogg, the insurance broker, for £160 million. One analyst said: "He was doing a good job behind the scenes on the divestiture programme. He got a good price for Testing Services and Bain Hogg last year."

Some analysts believe that Mr Cummins should have been replaced. One said: "There is a role there for somebody. They have been talking about gearing up the balance sheet for acquisitions."

Mr Cummins will go at the end of the year to pursue "a number of opportunities", a company spokesman said. He is not expected to be compensated.

Tempus, page 28

Profits fall as Johnson Fry reshapes itself

By MARK COURT

JOHNSON FRY, the financial services company, suffered a 46 per cent fall in pre-tax profits in its first half as it pursued its strategy to become a specialist retail fund manager (Gavin Lumsden writes).

The loss of revenue caused by the 68.5 million sale of Pinnacle, its housing management and insurance broking divisions, cut pre-tax profits before exceptional items from £1.5 million to £800,000. Earnings per share before exceptional items fell from 7.2p to 4.9p. An unchanged interim dividend of 2p is due on November 28.

Disposal proceeds lifted the company's net assets by 55 per cent to £15.4 million. David Backhouse, chairman, said this meant that it could fund further growth and make acquisitions in the next two years.

Property insurance claims down 26%

BRITISH domestic property insurance claims totalled £790 million for the first six months of 1997, a 26 per cent fall from the same period in 1996, said the Association of British Insurers. Claims for household disasters such as burglaries, fire and weather damage cost insurers in excess of £4 million a day during the first six months of 1997, but this level was significantly lower than last year, primarily as a result of reduced weather damage, the ABI said.

Weather damage claims were down 41 per cent from a year ago, domestic fire damage claims were unchanged and household theft claims were slightly down on a year ago. Subsidised claims were 30 per cent higher at £170 million. Commercial property claims were 20 per cent down on last year at £468 million, with the largest single claims arising from a factory fire in the North East of England costing £7 million and an arson attack on a school in the North West of England, which cost some £5 million.

Bookseller cuts losses

BARNES & NOBLE, the world's largest bookseller, reduced second-quarter losses to \$1.37 million (\$860,000) from \$2.72 million, on sales up 18 per cent to \$671.7 million. The company said the continued losses reflect heavy sales and administrative costs. Barnes & Noble's second-quarter revenues rose 26 per cent to \$303.6 million from \$239.1 million, accounting for 82 per cent of total revenues (76 per cent) in the quarter. Sales at B&N stores open for at least one year rose 10.6 per cent.

Clondalkin advances

INTERNATIONAL currency movements helped Clondalkin Group, the acquisitive Irish print and packaging company, to lift interim pre-tax profits to Ir£13.3 million (£9.2 million), from Ir£9.9 million last time. The company said that the outlook for the rest of the year is "satisfactory and hinted that further acquisitions in labelling and packaging companies would be made in the second half. A dividend of 2.6p is to be paid on September 10, up from 2.3p last time.

CFS on growth path

CFS GROUP, the software and administration support company, yesterday reported an eightfold increase in pre-tax profits for the 26 weeks ended June 30, from £26,000 to £252,000. Turnover more than doubled from £1.75 million to £3.7 million, reflecting organic growth and acquisitions. Earnings per share rose from 1.6p to 2.5p. No dividend will be paid. The company said it was confident of further strong growth in the second half. The shares fell 7p to 95½p.

OFT may refer £1bn deal

THE Office of Fair Trading said it is considering referring the country's largest management buyout to date to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. OFT is looking at referring the £1 billion acquisition by Cliven Group of Cie Generale des Eaux's unit Generale de Sante Internationale, including General Healthcare group, to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation and report. It is inviting public comment on the matter to be made before September 5.

Avesta Sheffield hit

AVESTA SHEFFIELD, the Anglo-Swedish steel group, said its first quarter for 1997-98 was hit by currency moves and that current forex rates would have an even larger effect on earnings. Avesta Sheffield, 51 per cent owned by British Steel, showed a pre-tax profit of 185 million crowns (£14.5 million) against 228 million crowns a year ago. The company said currency movements wiped 110 million crowns off the result in the three months ending June 30. Sales were up 8 per cent.

T Clarke at the double

T CLARKE, the construction group, almost doubled pre-tax profits from £80,113 to £1.1 million in the six months to June 30 and told shareholders that it hoped to be in a position to increase the final dividend by an amount similar to the 25 per cent rise in the interim to 2.035p a share. Earnings rose from 2.94p to 5.79p a share. The company said that it had cash balances of around £7 million and was "in excellent shape and well prepared for the challenges ahead."

Wedderburn oil buy

WEDDERBURN SECURITIES, which is listed on AIM, is to pay £4.63 million for Anglo Caspian Oil, which has a 70 per cent share in an exclusive production licence to exploit oil in Kazakhstan. The company said a £500,000 offer has been received for the sale of Wedderburn Developments, whose sole asset is ten sheltered housing units in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. This was in line with the group's plans to dispose of its property interests and establish it as an oil company.

ALIT's payout rises

ABTRUST Lloyd's Insurance Trust (ALIT), a corporate vehicle investing in the insurance market, has announced a smaller dividend than some observers expected. Distributing profits of its 1994 year of underwriting at Lloyd's, ALIT declared a final dividend, due on October 7, of 6.45p (202p previously) to make 1p (3.57p). ALIT said it had time to fill only 67 per cent of 1994 underwriting capacity. Subsequent years had seen fuller utilisation. Pre-tax profits were £3.9 million (£1.3 million).

Amro costs increase

GENEROUS bonuses and higher staff costs pushed expenses up by nearly 24 per cent, depressing interim profits at ABN Amro, the Dutch banking group that owns Hoare Govett, the broker. Operating costs of £2.3 billion at ABN Amro also included provisions for a number of specific items such as the introduction of the single European currency. Net profits at the Dutch bank rose by 20 per cent to £618 million while the interim dividend rose by 17.8 per cent to 0.43p a share.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.08	2.09
Canada Cdn	21.58	21.62
Denmark Dkr	83.25	83.28
France Ffr	6.55	6.56
Germany DM	0.80	0.81
Italy Lit	117.3	117.4
Japan Yen	8.27	8.28
Norway Nkr	10.32	10.34
Sweden Kr	3.09	3.10
Switzerland Sfr	1.48	1.49
UK £	1.00	1.00
USA \$	1.52	1.53

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
SECTION 109 (1) (a)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The Official Liquidators of Park Side Investments Limited ("the Liquidators") appointed in the Cayman Islands are requesting creditors to advise the Liquidators in writing of the details of their claims against Park Side Investments Limited by October 3, 1997 at the address below:

Official Liquidators
Park Side Investments Limited
P.O. Box 1359
Grand Cayman
Cayman Islands, BWI

All persons with potential claims should note that the above noted company is distinct from and wholly independent of Park Side Limited of 110001 and 110002, Ltd., P.O. Box 117001 and Parkside Investments of Maples and Calder, P.O. Box 30907, which are not in liquidation.

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Bangkok says it borrowed \$24bn to defend currency

By RACHEL HOLMES

THE Thai Government borrowed \$24 billion (£15 billion) to defend the baht against the wave of recent speculative attacks, it disclosed yesterday. Although its efforts failed, with the currency being forced into an effective devaluation in early July, the Thai authorities must now repay the money within 12 months.

Because \$14.8 billion of the debt is offshore, any attempt by Thailand to square its accounts could be a huge drain on its foreign exchange reserves, which stood at \$29 billion at the end of July. Chaiyawan Wibulsawadi, the Thai central bank governor, said that the \$16.7 billion international rescue package, triggered by the IMF's approval on Wednesday of a \$3.9 billion standby loan for Thailand, would be enough to cover its reserves. The Thai rescue is the second-largest ever.

Much depends on investor confidence. There was a lukewarm initial response by markets to the deal — the highest since Mexico was offered \$50 billion after its 1994 peso devaluation crisis. As other regional currencies, including the badly-hit Indonesian rupiah, recovered, the baht's offshore rate yesterday slipped to 32.30/50 from Wednesday's 31.80/90.

Analysts suggest that there will be an immediate easing of liquidity. However, international investors are worried that the situation may be worse than the Thai authorities are letting on. Some believe that the country's short-term debts may be as high as \$45 billion, and things could be very tight if it had to reimburse all its lenders in the next couple of months.

The situation would also deteriorate if the authorities insisted on bailing out the rest of the financial sector companies or guaranteeing their deposits, which may amount to \$30 billion. If they do not, however, there could be a run on the banks, with potentially devastating economic consequences. It is also unclear whether the structural reforms to which Bangkok has publicly committed itself, at the IMF's behest, are far-reaching enough to reassure investors.

Although currency speculators made money out of the baht crisis, many foreign investors suffered big losses. Microcap, the statistics company, says that many investment fund indices fell sharply.

PARK SIDE INVESTMENTS LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
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LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
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0171-480 6076
OR
020 1371 461 511
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

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The early bird catches a cold



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Rarely can a merger have turned so sour so fast as has the linking of BT and MCI. But if Sir Iain Vallance and Sir Peter Bonfield believe that they can save face with just minor cosmetic surgery to the terms of the deal, they are mistaken.

Shareholders in BT will need to be convinced all over again that they will be better off with MCI than without and that they are not being "rooked" over the price. Negotiating the MCI boys down by 10 to 15 per cent may not be enough to calm those investors who have increasingly been voicing their unhappiness over the deal. Neither will it be enough to restore confidence in the BT leadership, who appear to have been carelessly extravagant in their enthusiasm to buy MCI and inept in their handling of the mess in which it has landed them.

The company's statement yesterday that the "economic terms" of the merger were being re-examined appears to have been given only grudgingly drawn out not by a wish to keep shareholders in the picture but by the need to rebut craftily rumours that the deal would proceed unchanged — rumours which had been bolstering the MCI share price.

But what shareholders really need is some explanation as to how and why BT comes to be in this position. Only three months ago, in a set piece interview for the company's annual report, Sir

Peter was proclaiming why the merger was "such a major opportunity" and MCI the perfect partner.

As a director of MCI, one would have thought he was well placed to reach this conclusion. But it was Sir Peter's apparent shock at the MCI profits warning that caused almost more alarm than the warning itself. It raised the question of whether BT really knew what it was proposing to blow £15 billion on and, if not, why was it so enthusiastic for the deal?

In the annual report, Sir Peter explains that: "One of the great advantages of moving early, as we did, is that you can choose the best. Which is what we did." Perhaps his enthusiasm to be an early bird snapping up tasty telecom deals led BT to be a little lax in its researches and not realise that MCI's worm was turning rather nasty.

Certainly BT's non-executive directors should now be demanding a full explanation of how they come to be in this predicament. Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman of British Airways, might not be entirely thrilled to contemplate that not long ago, in his role as chairman of BT's remuneration committee, he was defending the lavish

bonus schemes that directors of the merged company would enjoy. Those too, will no doubt come back under the microscope as the merits of any merger are re-examined.

Then, perhaps, BT should call upon the services of another non-executive, Sir Ewen Ferguson. His 36 years in the diplomatic service might make him the ideal emissary to inform the MCI directors of what BT now believes their company to be worth.

When will Beckett set her course?

Down in Dover, the ferries are enjoying a bumper holiday season as they carry folk across the Channel to sample the delights of the (now nearly) ten-franc pound.

Unfortunately incidents such as Wednesday's hold-up in the Channel Tunnel cause the ferry operators to shed few tears. They

may be due to false alarms, but they do little to encourage travellers to desert the boats.

So with business flourishing, P&O is not as sure as it might be over the continuing official silence on the subject of its merger with Stena. But, before long, Lord Sterling would appreciate a little enlightenment since, once the holiday season is over, he would like to be free to restructure his operations in a way that makes economic sense.

The reluctance of the President of the Board of Trade to rule upon his proposals has significance which goes well beyond the ferry business. It is an indication of how Mrs Beckett intends to conduct Britain's competition policy in relation to Europe.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report into the £410 million merger has been with the DTI since April. Mrs Beckett is withholding her judgment on it until Brussels has pronounced. The French authorities did not

feel bound to wait for the verdict of Commissioner Van Miert before deciding whether the deal should be allowed: they waved it through at the start of the summer.

It may be that Mr Van Miert will do the same, although he is a tough and tricky individual, whose reactions are far from easy to predict. Whichever way he decides, will Mrs Beckett feel obliged to agree? If not, one wonders why she has not come to her own conclusion by now and told us. There are logical reasons why Brussels should have a view on what is a genuine cross-border deal, with implications for jobs on both sides of the Channel. But British companies need to have a clear indication of where and how competition decisions are to be taken.

If Mrs Beckett is accepting that she is merely a rubber stamp for Mr Van Miert and his colleagues, she may as well tell us. The indications are that P&O

must wait until late September to learn whether Brussels will allow him to link with Stena and that Mrs Beckett will pronounce shortly afterwards. The company will by then have reported figures which show just how buoyant the cross-Channel business has been. But it will not last and the authorities should bow to the need for consolidation.

Costain investors left in limbo

The Stock Exchange is showing an extraordinarily cavalier approach to the predicament of shareholders in Costain.

The company's quote has been suspended for almost a year and yet the Exchange seems in no hurry to have the situation rectified.

It may be that the shares are virtually worthless, but that is no reason to leave investors in limbo. In general, if a company's shares are suspended, the Exchange is anxious to bring them back to market within a matter of weeks.

But the Costain situation remains murky. It was July last year when Malaysian investors

put £73 million in to rescue the company but they have since realised that what they were getting was not one of the world's major contractors, as Costain once had been.

Today, the company has few big projects underway and the likelihood of its coming to a double difficulty, restraining it from investing heavily in rendering for new work, and making international customers wary of doing business with it.

It is not surprising, therefore, that what talent remains in the company may not hang around much longer.

Yet in the Far and Middle East, Costain had a valuable reputation which could yet be salvaged. The delayed accounts for 1996 should soon make clear whether there is a foundation on which the builder could be rebuilt.

Staying in tune

Prospective bidders for Boosey & Hawkes are queuing up, despite the hazards of becoming involved with a few artistic temperaments. Music-lovers have written to *The Times* declaring their fears that a new owner might dismember the group, splitting instrument making from music publishing. Who ever takes over the company will need to adapt the usual corporate song sheet to accommodate such sensibilities.

SB faces £950m overcharging action by American insurers

By PAUL DURMAN

SMITHKLINE Beecham is being sued for \$1.5 billion (£950 million) by American insurers who picked up the bill for overcharging by the pharmaceutical group's Clinical Laboratories division.

Earlier this year the company agreed to pay \$325 million to Medicare and other US Government healthcare agencies over a battery of similar complaints.

SmithKline Beecham, whose chief executive is Jan Leschly, insists the new claim is grossly exaggerated and is angered that it is being brought under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act (RICO). A spokeswoman said: "That's awful. It's the wrong law. It's completely inappropriate." She added: "We haven't defrauded anybody and are going to defend ourselves right to the end."

The lawsuit is being brought by a consortium of insurers, including Aetna, New York Life and Prudential of the US, who represent 37 per cent of the US private health insurance industry. On top of overcharging, the life-page legal claim alleges a more extensive fraud, including kickbacks to doctors and fabricating test codes. Under RICO, plaintiffs can claim triple damages and it is this that has magnified the insurers' claim. SB's Clinical Laboratories arm is an £800 million-a-year business that carries out



Jan Leschly, chief executive of SB, is ready to contest the lawsuit being brought by a consortium in the US

blood, urine and other tests on behalf of American doctors and hospitals. The cost of the tests are often met by insurers, who over companies' employee benefit plans and other private healthcare schemes. The company blames its previously lax procedures for carrying out too many tests either unnecessarily, without requests from doctors or with-

out the proper authorisation codes. Although it has made the biggest settlement in recognition of these failings, it is not alone: Laboratory Corporation of America has paid \$302 million and Corning Laboratories has agreed a \$178 million settlement. Under RICO, the insurers will have to prove SB intentionally broke the law — a

much more demanding requirement than in the Medicare case. In its dispute with Medicare, the company said: "There's never been any suggestion of intent." SB has still to exhaust the £250 million provision it has made against the costs of settling the American disputes. It remains confident its ultimate liability will not have

a material adverse effect on its financial condition." SB's shares ended the day only 4p lower, at 1134½p. Mark Brewer, analyst with ABN Amro Hoare Govett, suggested that the insurers' action was largely a scare tactic that would be too difficult to prove and would eventually be settled out of court for perhaps \$100 million.

BICC to use deal to stem German cable loss

By PAUL DURMAN

BICC plans to combine its German cable business with a similar operation owned by NKF of Holland in the hope that the resulting 50-50 joint venture can bring an end to years of losses.

The cables group hinted it was working on a deal at its results last week when it said it was seeking to reduce exposure to the difficult German market, which is suffering from weak prices and overcapacity.

Combining BICC's KWO Kabel and NKF's Kaiser Kabel will create a business with about 1,200 employees, but half of them are set to lose their jobs. BICC will bear the brunt of the job losses with the closure of KWO's energy cable factory and head office in Berlin, which employs 470 people.

A BICC spokesman said the job losses were "regrettable", but added: "It's hopefully a good and imaginative deal. Our ability to stay in the German market will pay off ultimately."

The renamed Kaiser KWO Kabel will have about a quarter of the German market for utility energy cables and more than 35 per cent of the metallic telephone cable business. BICC said this would put it on a par with Siemens though it would still be smaller than Alcatel Alsthom. Despite its recent problems, Germany remains by far the biggest European market for cables.

KWO has already shed 1,300 staff as it was cut back to what BICC previously believed was the minimum effective size of 700 employees. KWO made pre-tax losses of £13 million last year on sales of about £100 million, but this ignores earlier restructuring costs. KWO has been losing money since 1994 and BICC does not expect the joint venture to return to profit before the end of next year at the earliest. After withdrawing from some product lines, BICC expects Kaiser KWO to end up with turnover of close to £150 million.

The City liked the deal, and BICC's shares rose 8p to 177½p. The cables group said the estimated £15 million cost of rationalising the German business will be charged to this year's results. There will also be a balance sheet writedown of a similar size of the £52 million of net assets that BICC will transfer to Kaiser KWO Kabel.

M&S adds three stores in Germany

MARKS & SPENCER is to open three more branches in Germany after the success of its Cologne opening, its first in the country, last year (Sarah Cunningham writes). Three stores bought from Cranner & Meermann, a regional German retailer, in Dortmund, Essen and Wuppertal, are to be refitted at a cost of DM60 million (£20.5 million) and opened as Marks & Spencer in the early autumn of 1998. Marks & Spencer aims to

open up to 20 stores in Germany, according to Clive Nickolds, division director for European stores. It hopes to have ten open there by the turn of the century. It will take possession of the three newly acquired stores, which range from 40,000 sq ft to 60,000 sq ft, in March. The company operates 36 wholly owned stores and 55 franchise stores on the Continent. Turnover in the region last year was £552 million.

Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from the start of business on 22nd August 1997 the following **Business Cheque and Deposit rates** are applicable to the accounts set out below:

Rate per Annum
GROSS % GROSS %
C.A.R. %

Business Interest Cheque Account

Instant Access Cheque Account		
£250,000+	3.60	3.65
£100,000-249,999	3.20	3.24
£50,000-99,999	2.70	2.73
£10,000-49,999	2.35	2.37
£2,000-9,999	1.90	1.91
£1-1,999	1.20	1.21

Schools Banking Account

	4.95	5.04
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Capital Reserve Account**

£250,000+	5.70	5.82
£100,000-249,999	5.50	5.61
£50,000-99,999	5.20	5.30
£10,000-49,999	4.80	4.89
£2,000-9,999	4.40	4.47
£1-1,999	4.40	4.47

Practice Call Account†

	5.30	5.41
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Designated Clients Account

£100,000+	5.30	5.41
£50,000-99,999	5.10	5.20
£10,000-49,999	4.85	4.94
£2,000-9,999	3.45	3.49
£1-1,999	1.95	1.96

Business Call Account

£250,000+	4.30	4.37
£50,000-249,999	4.10	4.16
£10,000-49,999	3.75	3.80
£1,000-9,999	3.45	3.49
£1-999	3.20	3.24

TSB We want you to say YES

Interest rates are variable. Interest paid quarterly. *Before deduction of income tax at the lower rate. **7 days notice of withdrawal required or equivalent loss of interest on amount withdrawn. †Minimum balance £2,000.

TSB Bank plc, Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BZ

TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JH

Swing in exchange rate knocks Quarto

By MARK COURT

SHARES in Quarto, the publisher, fell more than 15 per cent yesterday to 155p after the company announced interim profits down by two thirds.

The company blamed currency movements and an increasingly competitive book market for the collapse in profits, from £1.58 million pre-tax in the first half last year to just £520,000 this time.

Quarto, under Laurence Orbach, chairman and chief executive, tried to reassure institutions, which have seen their investment halve in value in 12 months, by maintaining the dividend and spelling out a strategy for the future.

Mark Mousley, finance director, said: "We are looking at reforming our books to

control cost and driving our print prices down."

Quarto prints most of its books in the Far East, where it is negotiating lower prices, and is also talking to French and German printers to bring more of its printing to Europe.

Mr Mousley blamed a 29 per cent swing in the sterling/mark exchange rate as the main culprit for the profits slump at Quarto, which makes 80 per cent of its revenues overseas.

Mr Orbach said that profits for the full year would be unlikely to equal last year's £7.8 million. The interim dividend, maintained at 2.2p, is due to be paid on October 24.

Times, page 28

Pereira suing Capital for wrongful dismissal

By JASON NISSE

DESMOND PEREIRA, the former company secretary of Capital Corporation, yesterday sued the gaming group claiming breach of contract, unfair dismissal and racial discrimination.

If successful the damages could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds. Mr Pereira, who is British but of Asian origin, was dismissed in May by Alan Hearn, Capital's chief executive, after running the finance operations of the company while it was defending a £200 million bid from London Clubs International.

Mr Pereira issued proceedings at the North London Industrial Tribunal after having been in talks with the



Thompson co-defendant

company about compensation for loss of office.

The move came two days after Capital sued Mr Pereira, Kenneth Thompson, the for-

mer acting chief executive, and Guy Hutchinson, the former head of purchasing, alleging conspiracy to injure the company. The three have denied any wrongdoing and yesterday both Mr Pereira and Mr Hutchinson put out statements saying they "never acted otherwise than in the best interests of Capital".

Capital alleges the three conspired to persuade 11 staff members to resign, that Mr Thompson helped Ogden, the US service group, put in a rival bid for the Cromwell Mint casino in London when Capital was attempting to buy it, and that Mr Pereira and Mr Hutchinson made a secret profit of £104,000 buying cigars from a company run by Mr Hutchinson's wife.

Boosey & Hawkes price off key over talks

By JON ASHWORTH

SHARES in Boosey & Hawkes slipped back yesterday as the music company sounded a flat note on takeover talks.

The UK's best-known music publisher and instrument maker said that talks about a possible sale were continuing and that it was not yet possible to give a price for any public offer for the shares. Carl Fischer, a New York music publisher, is seeking to sell its 45.3 per cent stake in Boosey & Hawkes, raising the spectre of a break-up bid for the company.

Representatives of British composers, including Britten, Elgar, Holst and Delius, say that such a move would do "irreparable" damage to the British

music industry. In a letter to *The Times* published last month, they gave warning that loss of the company's independence could have far-reaching consequences for those involved in serious and educational music, affecting generations of composers, performers and audiences.

EMI, PolyGram, Sony and Bertelsmann, the German media group, are all thought to be preparing offers for the company, which is valued at about £200 million. Another possibility sees instrument makers such as Yamaha, of Japan, and Steinway-Selmer, of America, bidding in concert with one of the music publishers. Carl Fischer is being advised by Credit Suisse First Boston.

Boosey & Hawkes is thought to have

issued its statement at the behest of the Takeover Panel, which will have expressed alarm at the recent steep climb in the share price. The shares leapt from 300p to 1,062½p on reports of an imminent deal, but fell back yesterday to close at 1,000p.

Boosey & Hawkes is the world's leading publisher of 20th-century classical music, with copyrights on composers such as Stravinsky, Richard Strauss and Rachmaninov. In a hint of what may ensue, the Rachmaninov heirs have filed a suit against EMI Music Publishing for allegedly failing to exploit the composer's catalogue. Boosey & Hawkes publishes most of Rachmaninov's works, but EMI has the copyright on some of his last ones.



Richard Holland, Boosey & Hawkes chief executive

CLARE STEWART



A big drop in storm damage claims lifted insurance shares

The electricity generators enjoyed further rises in the light of the electricity regula-

MEDIA: HIGH PROFILE

But

Weir Group, after recent strong results and further broker support, climbed 6½p to 280p, topping its best levels so far this year.

Save Group, the independent petrol retailer, rose 10p to 70p, in reaction to news of Shell's interest in rival Gulf

Cammell Laird	136	-	4
EMI B	115	...	
Fairfield Entz	217½	...	
Fairplace Consulting	34	...	
GR Holdings	53	...	
Galen Holdings	197½	+	2
Hellcon Publs	98	-	1
Ionica Group	360½	-	10
Kingfisher Leisure	173½	...	
LEPCO	78½	...	
Landround	94½	...	

buy Yorkshire Tyne-Tees Television and United News & Media buy HTV. They started to bounce back in May, when rumours circulated that Ulster TV was about to fall into the hands of either United or Scottish Media. The latter made the

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

100

1997

51

3c

Figure 1

Brown maintains relentless pace after manic start as Chancellor

THE WHITEHALL REVOLUTION

By Robert Miller

WHEN Gordon Brown and his team strode into the Treasury on the afternoon of Friday, May 2, they found the wide-sweeping Whitehall stairway lined with civil servants to cheer them in. That arrival set the scene and the mood for what followed.

No one, except perhaps the very heart of the Labour Shadow Cabinet, could possibly have foreseen the manic pace that Mr Brown would set in his first few weeks as Chancellor of the Exchequer. But looking back people should not be so surprised. Here was a man who had been waiting in the wings for years and now had the chance to prove his mettle, and as the keeper of the nation's purse strings he needed to set out his stall decisively.

A hint of what was to follow came when "Eddie" George, Governor of the Bank of England, travelled from his Dulwich home on Spring Bank Holiday Monday for what he thought was a briefing. The Chancellor told Mr George he would announce the next day that he was granting the Bank its deepest wish: the independence to set interest rates free from political interference. The Governor understood that as a result of his longed-for freedom he would, at some stage, have to relinquish the bank supervision role. It was this point that was later to cause one of the first hiccups.

The Treasury, with its 900 civil servants, is the hub of Government and covers one of the largest and most diverse patches, such as financial services regulation, banking, National Savings, gifts, and, of course, the annual Budget.

Labour acknowledged the importance of safeguarding the coffers and cutting any agreed - City or market - quagmires before the election by confirming that Mr Brown would indeed be Chancellor and that Alistair Darling, his able and trusted Shadow Chief Secretary, would occupy the same position. With Ed Milliband and Ed Balls, their special advisers, they set to work immediately after the landslide victory. So too did Charlie Whelan, Mr Brown's combative press adviser. Now they went about their tasks set the tone for how Labour intended to run things in the future.

Labour press advisers overrode the selling of the political message and put the necessary spin on stories while the Treasury press office would sell the nuts and bolts of the numerous policy statements. Despite initial confusion, the system appears to have worked well. Such decisions in detail even extended to sartorial matters when Mr Brown let it be known that for the Mansion

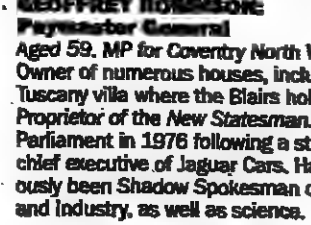
House speech, he at least would wear a working-day suit rather than traditional evening dress.

The rest of the Treasury team was quickly assembled with Shadow team member Dawn Primarolo becoming Financial Secretary, Geoffrey Robinson assuming the mantle of Paymaster General, and Helen Liddell taking on the role of Economic Secretary.

After the Bank of England announcement the Treasury team set to work with a vengeance. With Mr Brown's blessing Mrs Liddell launched a full-scale and well-orchestrated campaign to bring to book the life offices that mis-sold personal pensions. The companies were summoned to the Treasury where the facts of life under new Labour were spelt out. No more feet-dragging, report back in a month; then laggards would be named and shamed. There was little sympathy for persistent offenders in the City and a great deal of support from almost everywhere else.

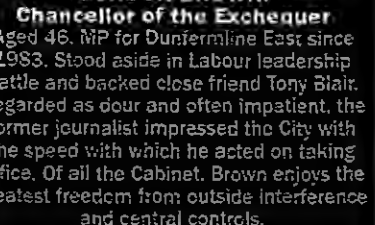
At the same time as preparing for a maiden Budget the Treasury team moved relentlessly forward. A second Bank of England Deputy Governor would be appointed; one would be responsible for monetary and interest rate policy, the other would safeguard the financial stability of the markets. An economic monetary policy committee, chaired by the Governor, would set interest rates. More announcements as the posts were filled. But the Treasury can only be as efficient as its money-raising powers, and with some of the plans that Labour have in mind this is likely to involve a redistribution of spending budgets throughout the Whitehall ministries. The answer?

THE TREASURY TEAM



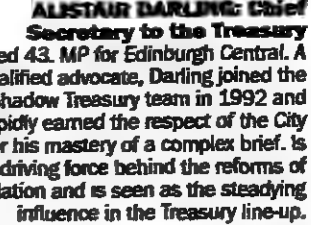
GEORGEY ROBINSON: Paymaster General

Aged 59. MP for Coventry North West. Owner of numerous houses, including the Tuscany villa where the Blairs holidayed. Proprietor of the New Statesman. Entered Parliament in 1976 following a stint as chief executive of Jaguar Cars. Has previously been Shadow Spokesman on Trade and Industry, as well as science.



GORDON BROWN: Chancellor of the Exchequer

Aged 46. MP for Dunfermline East since 1983. Stood aside in Labour leadership battle and backed close friend Tony Blair. Regarded as a calm and often impatient, the former journalist impressed the City with the speed with which he acted on taking office. Of all the Cabinet, Brown enjoys the greatest freedom from outside interference and central controls.



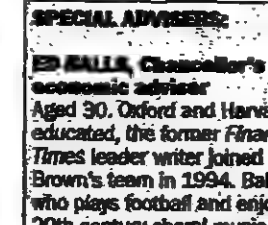
ALISTAIR DARLING: Secretary to the Treasury

Aged 43. MP for Edinburgh Central. A qualified advocate, Darling joined the Shadow Treasury team in 1992 and rapidly earned the respect of the City for his mastery of a complex brief. Is the driving force behind the reforms of regulation and is seen as the steady influence in the Treasury line-up.



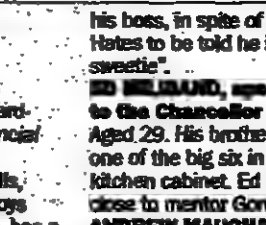
DAWN PRIMAROLO: Financial Secretary to the Treasury

Aged 43. MP for Bristol South. Joined the Shadow Treasury team in 1994 after a period on health and serving on the Members' Interests Select Committee. She has taken on one of the most complex Whitehall briefs, involving all aspects of the tax system. Highly rated by normally hardened mandarins.



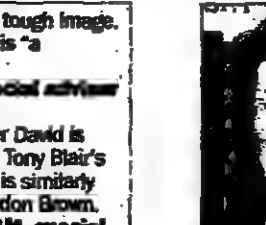
ED BALLS: Shadow Chancellor

Aged 30. Oxford and Harvard educated, this former Financial Times leader joined Brown's team in 1994. Balls, who plays football and enjoys 20th century music, has a pivotal role in making policy. CHARLIE WHELAN, Chancellor's press adviser, Aged 44. The chain-smoking, abrasive Treasury spin-doctor, is a shrewd and completely loyal to his boss, in spite of tough image. Hates to be told he is "a socialist".



SIR TERENCE BURNS: Permanent Secretary to the Treasury

Aged 53. Knighted in 1983, this most senior Treasury civil servant has a working life steeped in economics. He graduated from the University of Manchester (BA Econ Hons) before spells as lecturer and professor of economics at the London Business School. Author of numerous articles in economic journals.



HELEN LIDDELL: Economic Secretary to the Treasury

Aged 46. MP for Airdrie & Shotts. Won the Monklands East by-election caused by the death of Labour leader John Smith in 1994. The former head of public affairs for the Maxwell-owned Scottish Daily Record made her mark quickly by summing pension mis-sellers to the Treasury for a dressing down. Hugely energetic.

The In-Tray

● **City: Whitehall's in-tray** of legislation has already begun under Howard Davies, former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. Over the next three years, nine regulatory bodies, including those for banks, building societies and insurers, will come under a single watchdog and be covered by a new Financial Services Act.

● **Private Finance Initiative:** the Government sought to breathe new life into the PFI with the appointment last week of a new supremo, Adrian Montague, formerly of the merchant bank Dresner Kleinwort Benson. His job is to convince private companies to enter into financial partnerships with the public sector.

● **Whitehall Taskforce:** headed by Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, the taskforce brings together people from the Treasury, Inland Revenue, Department of Social Security and Department for Education and Employment. Their job is to find ways to "streamline and modernise the system to fulfil the objectives of promoting work incentives, reducing poverty and welfare dependency and strengthening community and family life."

● **Personal pensions:** a top priority is to force the life companies to meet their obligations in compensating up to 500,000 victims who were mis-sold personal pensions. The Treasury has vowed to keep up the pressure, including the public "naming and shaming" of the laggards among the life offices.

● **Spending:** the spending Comprehensive Spending Review will

cover all items of public expenditure across Whitehall to assess whether the money is being used to meet the Government's objectives and priorities.

● **Monetary union:** an advisory group of private businesses and the Government was launched in July in conjunction with a free guide on how a single European currency might affect businesses in the UK.

● **Legislation:** the Bank of England Bill creating the formal post of a second Deputy Governor will be presented to Parliament in the autumn.

● **Welfare to Work:** launched at a series of breakfast meetings with the Chancellor, New Deal for Jobs was unveiled to give incentives to employers and other organisations to provide jobs for the young and long-term unemployed.

A maverick poised on the verge of greatness

Fraser Nelson assesses the rise of a young media mogul

Within the next three weeks, Dan Wagner could become the youngest international media mogul in history. MAID, the on-line information company he set up only 12 years ago, is on the verge of pulling off an audacious £300 million takeover of Knight-Ridder, the largest business information house in America.

If the move succeeds, the 34-year-old maverick will find himself in the same league as Reuters, Reed Elsevier and Bloomberg — with every chance of overtaking them to become one of the world's most powerful information barons.

His business is described as media, but not as we know it. MAID, an acronym for Market Analysis Information Database, is basically a glorified electronic library which contains everything from brokers' notes to press agency bulletins.

The larger the database, the more valuable it becomes to analysts and advertising houses who need to pull out obscure information for complicated reports. With the addition of Knight-Ridder — which boasts 20,000 customers across 150 countries, MAID would lay claim to becoming the most comprehensive database of its kind.

Some titles still elude its grasp. The Financial Times has refused access to any of its articles even though Pearson, its parent company, has granted access to the Economist Intelligence Unit and its part-owned Exel news wire. When five FT articles found their way on MAID via Exel, the

three huge staff parties a year, with the instruction "dress funky" on the invitation. He has no qualms in recounting how he met his girlfriend — by pretending to be a journalist from The Face writing a feature on European models working in Japan.

Salesmanship runs in his family. His grandfather, one of the first post-war fruit merchants to sell frozen food, found much greater lasting fame by selling Jif to Reckitt & Colman.

His father, who used to run Volvo's UK division, played capitalism games with him as a child. While watching television, young Dan was given 10p every time he could name a brand within the first ten seconds of a television commercial.

He then went to the prestigious University College School, but dropped out at 16 after deciding he had learnt everything he thought useful.

Julian Richer, a family friend, gave him his first job, as a salesman for his hi-fi chain Richer Sounds. He then left for a marketing company, and was astonished at how much effort was ploughed into research when computers could do the job a lot quicker. At the age of 21, he quit to set up on his own.

He is admired for his strategic vision, ability to second-guess the market and move in position, hedging his bets just in time. The formula has so far served him well: by making MAID's databases accessible through the Internet on any PC with no extra kit needed. It has also invested millions in its flagship indexing system. There is no question that if MAID does merge with Knight-Ridder, Mr Wagner will still stay at the helm — even though his company is valued at £170 million against Knight's £300 million.

It will be a kind of spiritual homecoming. Mr Wagner has always said his biggest mistake was to set up shop in Britain rather than in America. "I grossly underestimated the reluctance of UK marketing and advertising companies to take on something new, especially something which involved computers," he once said. "It nearly sunk MAID there and then."

Britain has not been unkind to Mr Wagner. He enjoys a £140,000-a-year salary, owns two Aston Martins and has a stake in the company worth some £35 million. This time next month, he could find himself sitting on top of a £500 million giant that dwarfs every other on-line business information provider in the world.

He throws three huge staff parties with the instruction: dress funky

But Mr Wagner has larger fish to fry. His fan base, who compare him to Mike Bloomberg, took yesterday's move as further proof of his status as an industry great being able to take heavy gambles and with a knack of making them pay off.

Sealing the acquisition should silence his many critics. In the more sceptical corners of the City, his slicked-back hair and big grin draw more comparisons with Andrew Regan, who came to grief with his bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society, than with the great and the good.

Image has never been Mr Wagner's strong point. When MAID floated in 1993, he presented himself to the City in a penguin waistcoat — and came across as a teenage chatter rather than an industrial heavyweight. He still takes pride in doing things his way. He throws

Leading truth

THE revelation, in this column earlier this week, that Bill Cockburn is taking a well earned rest after a good 21 months as chief executive of WH Smith means the spotlight will turn on Jeremy Hardie. He is not only trying to find a new chief executive but also will present the confused retailer's figures next week. For those who might confuse Smith's chairman with the cartoon wearing comic recently seen on TV in the company of Jack Dee, here is a refresher on his career.

A former seaman, Hardie was an Oxford economics don for seven years before becoming an accountant. Thence to

John Swire, the Oriental trader, and the MMC. This was ideal training for when, three-and-a-half years ago, he became the first Smith's chairman for 202 years, to come from outside the founding families.

Hardie immediately showed an appreciation of the job saying: "You meet a lot of famous people." But Hardie's great claim to fame was as Social Democratic Party candidate for Norwich South in the 1983 and 1987 elections. He was soundly trounced both times. Speaking of the SDP, Hardie said: "It had excellent leadership... but it failed comprehensively." Spot the similarities with WH Smith.

□ **PERHAPS** Hardie — who was captain of "a peculiar kind of football" as a schoolboy at Winchester — might come to the aid of England's cricket team. After all, it has hardly responded to the Tesco approach. Maybe it is time for the WH Smith approach.

Be here soon

PICKING my way through the queues of spotty adolescents crowding out my local record shop as they attempt to purchase the new record by the popular beat combo Oasis,



I notice that Manchester City, the football team of choice for Oasis's Gallagher brothers, has struck a deal with the publicity shy Richard Branson. Apparently Virgin Trains is to run special services ferrying City fans to away matches and will actually sponsor three of the struggling First Division side's games this season.

The first of these locomotives will run to the metropolis for next month's game against Queens Park Rangers, another side with musical connections. It is chaired by Chris Wright, who made his money bringing the likes of Genesis to a wider audience. Virgin's plan is to reintroduce the old "football specials" — famous for Watney's Red Barrel and excessive violence. But given Virgin Trains' punctuality record, City fans will be lucky to arrive at the match before the final whistle.

□ **CARLISLE** is long way away from London. But the exotically named Peggy Czak-Dannbaum is willing to make the trip for board meetings of food makers Cavanagh & Gray, having just become a non-executive director. Mrs Czak-Dannbaum, who runs the London-based investment group CDM, is famed for being the only British resident member of the Committee of 200, the organisation of high-powered American businesswomen. C200, as it is called, is casting around for more UK members. Mrs Czak-Dannbaum might meet someone interesting on the train.

Ground rules

LORD HOLLICK, who has been telling all and sundry that he never really wanted to buy Ulster TV now that Scottish Media has snapped up 29.9 per cent of the TV group, is causing a bit of bother in Leeds, I hear.

Staff at the Yorkshire Post, part of the good Lord's United News & Media empire, are up in arms because they have been told that their central Leeds playing fields are to be sold for redevelopment as a business park.

The employees are claiming that there is a covenant from a previous owner leaving the fields for permanent use as a sports ground. "We know nothing of this," a Hollick minion tells me. "Some of

these documents are pretty antiquated."

Newrotic

THE plans for the super-SIB, or Newro as I am supposed to call it, are gathering pace now that McKinsey, the management consultant, is on the case. But their rumination on the future of City regulation are really hush hush. A reader phoned McKinsey asking to speak to someone working on the super-SIB project to be told: "I am sure you are aware I cannot tell you who we are acting for or not acting for."

Well, who should a letter be sent to on the matter. "Oh, Allen Watson. Head of banking."

JASON NISSÉ



"They're worried about overcharging. Wait till they see the lawyers' fees!"

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THE TIMES FRIDAY AUGUST 22 1997

**High school
reunion?
Guess you'll be
taking the
company car
along.**

Modest gains in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	99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The camp original vindicated

It has certainly been the year of original versions — all those first thoughts by Verdi at Covent Garden, and a spruce, cleaned-up Lucia at Edinburgh earlier in the week. The first version of *Ariadne*, in which Strauss's opera follows Hofmannsthal's version of *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, is perfectly wonderful and perfectly impossible. It was devised in 1912 for the sort of court theatre ensemble of actors, singers, dancers and musicians that does not exist any more, even then, composer and librettist saw that it was impractical and were right to turn it into the through-composed opera we know today. But it is ideal festival fare — Strauss's incidental music for the Molière is alone reason for the occasional airing — and the Edinburgh staging by the combined forces of Scottish Opera and the Nottingham Playhouse (sponsored by AT&T) is sheer delight from beginning to end.

For a start, they do it all (Glyndebourne's Edinburgh version nearly 50 years ago was heavily cut) and it is a long evening, but seldom can nearly four hours in the theatre have passed so swiftly, and so enjoyably. Jeremy Sams's new translation catches Hofmannsthal's peculiarly camp humour to a T, and adds a surrealist lunacy all of its own when the Philosopher reaches Jourdain the

OPERA

Ariadne auf Naxos

Festival Theatre

letters of the alphabet — you really have to listen as the jokes come tumbling over each other.

Martin Duncan's pacy direction bustles along in Tim Harley's lavishly nouveau riche designs. Here too there are moments of surrealism, like the kitchen boy who thinks he's a Chippendale,

While there are no dancers as such, the hard-working Nottingham actors, doubling many a role, can certainly shake a nifty leg for the choreographer Sean Walsh.

Duncan's witty interplay between singers and commedia in the opera is especially successful: the ironic detachment is throughout sharper in this version, with Jourdain-as-stage-audience complaining loudly that Ariadne's lament is boring (Strauss didn't change a note in the revision).

Sam Kelly's Jourdain has the ruefulness of a Clive Dunn, plays the audience as shamelessly as Frankie Howard, and commands a sympathy all his own, surrounded as he is by frauds and spongers. Gillian Hanna and Mary Roscoe are a guinea a minute as his foul-mouthed wife and long-suffering maid.



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL



Playing for laughs in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Strauss's surreal piece of lunacy: rear, David Stephenson, Andrew Slater; front, Richard Coxon, Lisa Saffer and David Owen

In the pit, Richard Armstrong brings the lightest of touches to the incidental music and coaxes sonorities of deepest Tyrian purple from his willing orchestra at the end of the opera. Anne Evans sings with

her own very special brand of musicianship as Ariadne, and enjoys herself hugely as a Welsh prima donna prone to diplomatic migraines in the play. The role of Zerbinetta was both longer and

higher in 1912 — all Strauss's subsequent cuts were quite frankly for the better (he could go on a bit, as Jourdain remarks) — but Lisa Saffer makes light of the technical difficulties. John Horton Murray,

Garsington's Menelaus, makes a robust, naively boyish Bacchus. Good Nymphs (Echo gets some uncanonical echo jokes in the play) and sprightly commedia.

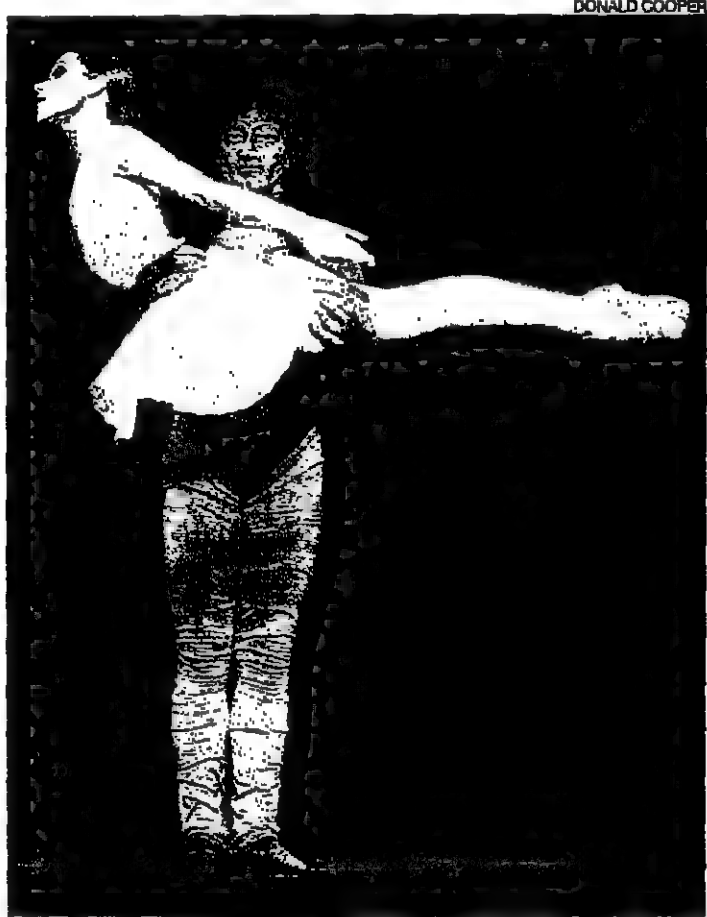
Truly an evening for connoisseurs. Wednesday's first night was not quite full, so a trip to Edinburgh tonight or on Sunday is most earnestly recommended.

RODNEY MILNES

In brave new heart

Maybe it was a more complimentary repertoire. Or maybe it was just a good night's sleep. Whatever it was, it made all the difference when San Francisco Ballet unveiled its second Edinburgh Festival programme on Wednesday night. Here was a company happy to be dancing and, unlike the night before, dancing in form.

New choreography was the order of the day — nothing more than a decade old — with two of the pieces having been made for San Francisco



Claudia Alfieri and David Palmer in Bintley's *The Dance House*

but, the choreography chimes, that is no reason to deny ourselves rapture while we wait. In going for the very essence of his intended statement, Bintley has produced a

resounding work which reminds us what a brilliant choreographer he can be.

DEBRA CRAINE

DANCE

San Francisco Ballet

Playhouse

co Ballet. The exception was Mark Morris's *Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes*, a pointe shoe ballet created in 1988 for American Ballet Theatre and taken into the San Francisco repertoire only last year.

Choreographed for an ensemble of 12 to 13 piano études (pianist Daniel Waitte) by Virgil Thomson, *Drink* embraces the drill of the classroom and then sets its disciplined students free to pursue spontaneous and abundantly affectionate dancing. In terms of performance this was the weakest of the three, but that did not stop us appreciating Morris's wonderfully sanguine writing.

It was an altogether more distinctive company which gave us *Crisis*, created for San Francisco earlier this year by its artistic director Helgi Tomasson. The choreography, which comes in two antithetical sections, starts Baroque and finishes modern. The music, Scarlatti arranged by Charles Avison and Schoenberg (after Handel), is equally contradictory.

The jump across the centuries is reflected in the choreography's demeanour: decorative and agreeable at the start, loose and sensually outspoken at the end. The choreography may not be particularly innovative or even persuasive, but the dancers seem to like it, none more so than Roman Rykin (formerly with English National Ballet), here looking very strong indeed.

David Bintley, artistic director of Birmingham Royal Ballet, has made several pieces for San Francisco. The latest, 1995's *The Dance House*, to Shostakovich's Concerto for Piano, Trumpet and Strings, received its British premiere on Wednesday night. Bintley made it after the death of a friend suffering from AIDS, but although *The Dance House* is shadowed by AIDS it is nothing else, Robert Heindel's cod costumes tell us that, it is by no means consumed by it.

Eschewing the forced theatricality that often mars his creations, Bintley has placed his trust in the power of pure movement. And the result is some of the most beautiful, intricate and stirring dance of his career.

There is nothing gimmicky or extraneous: even the figure of Death, a grotesque herald (David Palmer), very good, is part of the transcendent completeness of life which Bintley projects.

The dance of Death awaits all

AROUND THE EDINBURGH GALLERIES

Work in camera

CONTEMPORARY art is represented with a big show of *Multiple 1965-97* by Gerhard Richter at the Fruitmarket Gallery. It is fascinating to see how Richter started out, particularly in some gloomy, vaguely Abstract Expressionist canvases (not, evidently, multiples) from the early 1960s. But most of the show is taken up with photographic works, more or less manipulated and worked over from an unremarkable original photograph.

Sometimes the effects produced by dragging painted colour over the surface of a black-and-white picture are extraordinary, suggesting a combination of Richter's two most familiar styles, the paintings which reproduce in faithful detail his own photographs, and those which consist of bright colours dragged across the surface of the canvas to suggest a late Monet taken a stage or two further towards Abstraction. On the other hand, there are quite a lot of pieces where one cannot help feeling that Richter's fame is called upon to validate the work, rather than the other way round.

Gerhard Richter is at the Fruitmarket Gallery (0131-225 2383) until Sept 27

THIS year being the fiftieth anniversary of both the Edinburgh Festival and Dior's New Look, the Talbot Rice Gallery of the University of Edinburgh has had the interesting idea of combining the two in one show, *A New Look at 1947*. The link is fairly tenuous, but not completely non-existent. The first festival, dominated by French influence, and one of the stage productions was designed by Bernard, a close associate of Dior, fresh from designing Dior's very first boutique.

Margot Fonteyn, star of the first festival, was one of Dior's first customers, and bought from his first collection the Daisy Suit, exhibited here, which she wore with great aplomb during the festival. The lower floor of the exhibition contains a number of other Dior originals from the 1947 collection, unfortunately shown, for reasons of conservation, in such dark conditions that it is sometimes difficult to make out what all the fuss was about.

Upstairs the festival itself is documented, providing a vivid image of austerely-bound post-war Britain trying valiantly to burst into glamorous international fashion.

A New Look at 1947 is at the Talbot Rice Gallery (0131-650 2311) until Sept 21

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JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Delight from under the bushel

Catching the Zeitgeist, and being the flavour of the month are not the same thing in British playwriting. One minute you're the one most likely to be fêted by theatre managements and commissioned to the hilt; the next a new crowd has moved in and you're at the back of the queue.

Of course, this has never bothered Howard Barker. Britain's greatest living playwright, who has been shunted off to the sidelines for so long that, if it wasn't for his prolific workrate, you could easily forget that he's still here. Not that *The Wrestling School*, the company set up to rescue his richly dense works from academic hell, are likely to let that happen.

Their production of *Wounds to the Face* (Assembly Rooms) is a provocative work that explores what it means quite literally to lose face. It does this via a series of interlocking narratives that move from cracked mirror, plastic surgeon and assorted scars to Narcissus, *doppelgangers*, 17th-century emperors and men in masks.

Of course, being Barker, the situations are extreme and driven by desire and, while he is never likely to be commissioned for a primetime TV slot, his classical linguistic relex cuts through the chaff and gets to the heart of the matter with a soiled eloquence that looks the truth straight in the eye and spits bloody poetry at it.

If you're looking for *Zeitgeist*, you may think you've come to the right place if you see Peter Terson's *Have You Seen This Girl?* (Pleasance), which begins somewhat opportunistically with an Oasis song. Even more sidelined than Barker, Terson has stuck primarily with youth theatre, although his 1960s roots are all over the show in this National Youth Theatre production which traces the causes of a 16-year-old girl's running away from home, disappearance and death. It is classic, large-scale Youth Theatre indulgence, performed with vigour and assurance. But the play seems dated by way of being both a product and a critique of wet liberal values, and in effect bites the hand that feeds it. It's picaresque in style, complete with wiseman's busters, friendly lollipop ladies and with-it English teachers. But the anachronisms don't stop there. Downfallen child heroine Lisa seems to have run straight out of *Cathy Come Home*. For all the uncomfortably grafted-on sloop and drug references, it's a play out of time, with Lisa on the run from a period of history she never knew.

Meanwhile, Poland's gorgeous Wiesław Wolski (Theatre Workshop), despite having their set swept away in the recent Polish floods. Rebuilt locally, their typically ramshackle construction grace this Co. in another dimension, an enraged spirit seeks justice, while in the real world undying love rules the day.

It's steeped in folklore and myth, suffused with a brooding intensity, aided and abetted by choral singing and a liberal use of candles, which compensate for the somewhat shaky English.

Quebecois drama has been flourishing in Scotland for some time now, but *Elephant Wake* (Hill Street), an import from Alberta, seems to capture the full poignancy of a nation in search of where it belongs via its own words. On the surface it is an ordinary tale of simpleton small town boy Jean Claude, the last man left in the ghost town of St. Vierge. He proceeds to paint a delightfully awestruck picture of what was once a thriving community, but has now collectively upped sticks and ditched Hicksville for the Big City.

All life was here all right the spirits of family and friends wandering through Jean Claude's rose-coloured memory. A papier-mâché zoo — in particular a "Chinese elephant" — gives him some kind of focus as the lights go out in Toytown. But when things get beyond his control, Jean Claude must start from scratch and find a bigger and better foundation to call his own.

Jonathan Christenson and Joe Trembley's one-man play, touchingly played by Trembley, is a moving evocation of an already fractured childhood turning even sadder, only to pull through, fleeing muscles it never knew it had.

NEIL COOPER

BBC PROMS: John Allison introduces tomorrow night's British premiere for a leading Russian composer

One of the leaves on the Russian music tree — this is how Rodion Konstantinovich Shchedrin disarmingly describes himself. Born to turn 65, he is in fact one of the leading Russian composers of the post-Shostakovich generation. But his neat metaphor certainly sums up his place in a great musical tradition. It even recalls — perhaps consciously — Tchaikovsky's remark about the whole Russian symphonic school stemming from Glinka. "Just as the oak is in the acorn".

Though it is easy to romanticise Russian music and relate it all to the peasant-tilled earth, that is indeed the key to much of Shchedrin's modern but easily approachable output. His scintillating *Old Russian Circus Music*, which receives its British premiere in tomorrow night's Prom, is deeply rooted in 19th-century folk culture. "I'm from a poor Russian background. My grandfather was an Orthodox priest in a provincial city. My mental make-up is completely Russian, and I want to be Russian in the music I write. Of course, if commissioned to write a non-Russian piece I could, but that's not the way I like to work. I always compose a new score, and only analyse it afterwards."

Old Russian Circus Music, his Third Concerto for Orchestra, was composed in 1980. As a newly issued Chandos recording reveals, Shchedrin has created a scene in

Echoes of the circus

music that could come out of an old Russian painting: little marches to represent parading clowns, solo variations for the tightrope-walker, and fireworks, all framed by the arrival and departure of the circus procession. "In Russia last century, the circus was the most important form of entertainment. It hit towns like an earthquake, amid gunshots and applause, and with it came tears and laughter, broken-hearted girls and jealous husbands."

It's not only in its subject-matter that his piece is old-fashioned. It's an entertainment in the tradition of virtuoso concert music. In our century music has become too serious, and composers have forgotten that virtuosity played an important part in the history of music from before Bach to after Liszt and Paganini. Perhaps it's not what is now considered to be good taste, but I wanted to write a colourful work, in the line of Rimsky-Korsakov and Stravinsky's *Perpetuum Mobile*. I hope."

There is a heady, optimistic energy about this work that reflects Shchedrin's mood at the time of its composition. "Perpetuum Mobile led to spiritual freedom, to us being able to move around. Today we can live wherever we like: it's like paradise. The composer now divides his time between Munich and Moscow, one of the Russian cities due to host a festival of his music this December, but remains aware of the problems facing his compatriots today. "It's as bad for the musicians as everyone else. I know of young composers who have been forced to sell their tape-recorders and pianos to stay alive."



Shchedrin: "My mentality is completely Russian"

The anti-conformist Shchedrin graduated from the Moscow Conservatory two years after Stalin's death, and quickly became a skilled operator and musical chameleon. Some works won him praise from Soviet officialdom and the country's top prizes, others were censured. On one hand he could write an oratorio like *Lenin in the People's Heart*, on the other a satirical cantata based on the rules of a Soviet health home, *Byurokratiada*. How his operatic adaptation of Gogol's masterpiece *Dead Souls*, which alluded to conditions under Brezhnev, got to its 1977 Bolshoi Theatre premiere remains a mystery.

"I was never a member of the Party. Yes, I sometimes had to make compromises with the Central Committee, but then so did Shostakovich and Prokofiev. All my premises were the results of big battles."

Even my *Carmen Suite* was forbidden at its second performance and replaced by *The Nutcracker*. I was accused of mocking Bizet and making a prostitute out of the heroine of the Spanish people! But I'm not a soft character, or one of those composers who sits at home waiting for invitations to come along.

Except for the disappointing

post-modern opera *Lolita*, premiered in Stockholm in 1994, all seven of his other operas and ballets had their first performances at the Bolshoi. Not bad going for a man who headed the relatively liberal Russian Union of Composers rather than the more orthodox Union of Soviet Composers run by his rival, the apparatus Tikhon Khrennikov.

Shchedrin's large work-list also includes four piano concertos — he is a brilliant pianist and organist — two symphonies and smaller-scale pieces. The latter are written in styles ranging from Soviet-period Prokofiev to serialism and the "new simplicity".

But he is most famous in the West for his *Carmen Suite*. Why *Carmen*? "My wife Maya Plisetskaya, the Bolshoi prima ballerina to whom I've been married for 39 years, wanted to dance *Carmen*. She asked Shostakovich to write new music, but he said that he was too much in awe of Bizet. She asked Khachaturian, but he was too lazy. So I stepped in. Realising that I couldn't do better than Bizet, I transcribed it for a completely different orchestra of strings and percussion. It took me only 20 days — somebody was dictating it to me from the sky."

Old Russian Circus Music is at the Proms at 7.30pm, tomorrow (Albert Hall, 071-589 8212), and on a Chandos recording (CHAN 9552).

Been there, done that, sold the tent

Looking forward to the fun and games at the Reading Festival this weekend? Then you are a braver fan than I am

Maybe there are too many pop festivals around at the moment. There was a time when my brain would never have conceived the possibility of that sentence: too many festivals? Too many lovely open-air things, with stalls selling barbecued shark and couscous salad? Too many stages where tiny little bands fizz and kick, and the established acts roll out all the stage lights and fireworks in the world? Too many mornings of waking up with a feeling of having attended Woodstock... on the Moon?

Too much of that? That would be like breathing too much. (Which, err, leads to hyperventilation, but you get the idea.) In days of yore (yore being four years ago), there were really only two festivals. Glastonbury (Elysian fields, men dressed in fried egg costumes, Christmas for true believers in the faith of pop/rock) and Reading (industrial site outside the town, back to school next week, better get very drunk and get Prolepse to sign my leg in the signing tent). And, because there were only two, one subconsciously presumed that festivals weren't a particularly lucrative thing for Men of Business to invest in, and going along felt like paying some kind of indie tax - £75 to keep 17 and Cudi alive for the winter? Bargain.

Now, though, when we also have Phoenix, T in the Park and V97, it's become blatantly obvious that festivals must be a pot of gold. Suited fellas with flipchart souls sit around in the bleak midwinter, staring at projected earnings spread-sheets, muttering: "They'll be so drunk they'll cough up for an amusing £15 jester's hat. We'll hold it in July, and it will be named Profit in the Park. What are the Prodigy doing?"

CATLIN MORAN

And so events such as last weekend's V97 (there'll be a couple of fraught meetings when we get to the year 2000. V90 sounds like the noise a sarcastic German ghost might make) didn't feel at all like a festival, merely a big gig in a park. Blur played a set of their most audience-unfriendly songs, and Damon Albarn's demonic gurning suggested that he was trying to exact revenge on them for having bought more Oasis than Blur records in the past year. About 10,000 people walked away halfway through, as Ash were on the other stage, and haven't yet reached the point of career cynicism where playing your most loved songs would be seen as "weak".

Disappointment was assuaged, however, by the Divine Comedy's glorious hour of impassioned Brechtian drama and elegant pop nois. However, as always, things got sticky when the bars shut and the audience entered the area of "not being financially viable any more". Festival organisers must hate their audiences when their wallets shut.

Last year's T in the Park was truly disgusting in that respect, with campsites a mile away from the festival site and a motorway cutting the two off from each other. Because crossing a motorway while drunk and wearing a wilted jester's hat is illegal, a bus service was set up to ferry punters from one site to the other. Unfortunately,



The most fun you can have with your clothes on — or off, if it comes to that? Revellers at last year's Reading Festival make believe they are having a good time

ly, the waiting-time was up to two hours, so many people slept in the car park.

Would that this had been possible at V97. As Blur played *For Tomorrow* to the five remaining audience members, the other 49,995 attempted to find their cars. In the pitch dark. With no signposts. And security guards who

met the inquiry "Where is the red car park?" with the same response they would provide have for: "Who did the 1996 remix of Method Man's *Release Yo' Delf*?" Now, while decent lighting would have been horrifically profit-denting, the odd piece of cardboard tacked to a pole with "This way to the car parks" on it would have

cost far less than one punter's ticket. To have informed the Traffic Controllers (fossilised crusties in luminous jackets, trying to hide their joints up their sleeves when approached by anyone over the age of 25) where 30,000 cars might have been parked would have been gloriously free.

As it was, desperate revellers met each other in deserted, pitch-dark fields and sobbed: "It's a red Peugeot 405, registration F297 XCY, please help me. My wife is four months pregnant. I fear I will not reach the hospital in time for the birth." The days have gone when we believed that going to a festival (with the exception of Glaston-

Full pelt for the big time

SUPER FURRY ANIMALS

Radiator (Creation GRBCD214 £13.99) GRADUATING quickly from support status they toured Britain last year as guests of fellow Welshmen the Manic Street Preachers) to headliners in their own right, Super Furry Animals now dream reviews for their debut album, *Fuzzy Logic*. This successor follows with almost indecent haste, but showcases a band with a firm grasp both of pop history and its own potential place in it.

The recent single *Herman Loves Pauline*, included here, has the sort of close harmony vocals perfected by mid-1960s American bands such as the Turtles or the Association, but has a wit and style that is all the group's own. Singer-guitarist Guff Rhys leads the five-piece (in among the bass and drum credits, member Cian Ciaran is presented as being responsible for "strange and interesting noises", of which there are many) with an assurance remarkable in so young a band, while tracks such as *Demon* and *Bass*

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NEW POP ALBUMS

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Stereophonics *Word Gets Around* (V2 VVR1000432 £13.99)

ALSO from Wales are Stereophonics, although this three-man band has little else in common with the Super Furies. Guitarist-frontman, Kelly Jones has one of those big, rasping rock voices that can overpower any song not strong enough to stand up for itself, but happily he, bassist brother Richard and drummer Stewart Cable also have a facility for writing clever, hook-ridden but nicely skewed songs about the potential awfulness and absurdities of small-town life. *A Thousand Years*, Billy Dwyer's Daughter and the current single, *Local Boy in the Photograph*, are all mini-triumphs, making it easy to imagine these first signings to Richard Branson's new V2 label being huge by the millennium.

Fleetwood Mac *The Dance* (Reprise 9362-46702-2 £13.99) NUGGED towards reformation by the 20th anniversary of their multimillion selling *Rumours* album, the 1977 Mac line-up of Lindsey Buckingham, Mick Fleetwood, Christine and John McVie and Stevie Nicks recorded this 17-track LP live earlier this summer on a Los Angeles sound-stage, as a prelude to an American tour. Inevitably, there are tracks from *Rumours*, plus four new songs — two from Buckingham, one from Nicks and another from Christine McVie. It is the two women who appear to have stood up best to the passage of time; on the evidence here, their voices remain gloriously distinctive and uncompromised.

Levellers *Mouth to Mouth* (China WOLCD 1084 £12.99) "THERE has always been a dance element to our music..." The bandwagon-jumper's self-justification has long since caused cynicism to surge in even the most trusting of ears. Coming from the Levellers, though, such a statement rings true. Certainly, the element in question is more roistering than bleakly techno, but on this, their fifth studio album, they shake their collective booty with more energy than ever.

Singer Mark Chadwick is still just as enjoyably full-on, but the additional light and shade provided by the discreet deployment of technology is welcome within the band's still distinctive sound. Eddi Reader threads guest or backing vocals through several tracks and, in *Dog Train*, they have a fine single to follow up the hit, *Beautiful Day*.

Orbital and Michael Kamen *Event Horizon: Original Soundtrack* (London 8289392 £15.99)

A SPOT of extramural activity for Orbital's Paul and Phil Hartnoll, this collaboration with the heavyweight film composer Kamen was inspired by director Paul Anderson's new sci-fi thriller. The film has been described as *The Shining* set in space, which explains why this four-movement soundtrack moves from the unsettling to the downright scary.

The concept is a clever one: at times, the Hartnolls incorporate music originated by Kamen and full orchestra into their own soundscapes, while elsewhere Kamen's own score dominates, underpinned by Orbital's eerie pulsings and twitters.

ALAN JACKSON



The rise of Super Furry Animals picks up pace with their quirky and engaging second album, *Radiator*

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (1) *White on Blonde*.....Texas (Mercury)
- (2) *The Fat of the Land*.....Prodigy (XL Recordings)
- (3) *Backstreet's Back*.....Backstreet Boys (Jive)
- (4) *Always on my Mind*.....Elvis Presley (RCA)
- (5) *OK Computer*.....Radiohead (Parlophone)
- (6) *Blurring the Edges*.....Mercedes Brooks (Capitol)
- (7) *Spice*.....Spice Girls (Virgin)
- (8) *Love is For Ever*.....Billy Ocean (Jive)
- (9) *Sheryl Crow*.....Sheryl Crow (A&M)
- (10) *Do It Yourself*.....Seahorses (Geffen)

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Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

Unforgettable, in every way

DIANA KRALL

Love Scenes (Impulse! IMP 12332)

ALTHOUGH her closest British equivalent — for her almost conversational intimacy, and the intelligence with which she interprets the lyric — is Claire Martin, Canadian singer/pianist Diana Krall's clearest debt is to Nat "King" Cole. The instrumentation — her own skilful piano, Russell Malone's neat guitar and Christian McBride's deft but forceful bass — echoes that of Cole's influential 1940s trio, but, more importantly, the ease and assurance with which she tackles the 13 love songs on this collection also bring the great man to mind. Moods swing unaffectedly between the smoky sensuousness of *They Can't Take That Away From Me* to the perky humour of the gold digger's anthem, *Peel Me a Grape*, but the sheer force of Krall's personality ensures that the album remains a highly satisfying artistic whole.

CREATIVE MUSIC

Woodstock Jazz Festival 1-2 (Douglas Music ADC 8-9) DESCRIBED by Ornette Coleman's biographer, John

JAZZ ALBUMS

Litweller, as "the new jazz's leading institution of higher learning in the 1970s", Karl Berger's Creative Music Studio celebrated its tenth anniversary in 1981 with an extended concert featuring linchpin-drummer Jack DeJohnette, pianist Chick Corea, bassist Miroslav Vitous and assorted frontline soloists, including the considerable likes of saxophonists Lee Konitz and Anthony Braxton and guitarist Pat Metheny.

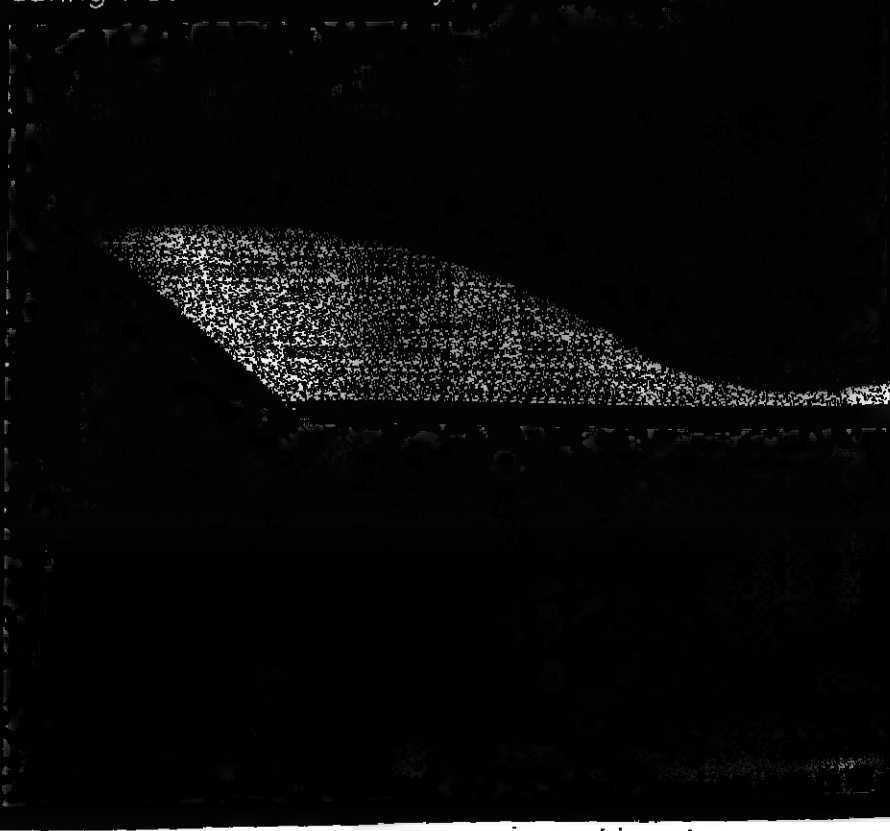
All are heard at various points on these two CDs. Among the highlights are an early performance of Corea's *Waltz*, which sees the pianist usefully stretched by his vigorous rhythm section; a daringly deconstructed Corea-Konitz duo version of *Round Midnight* and a relaxed but lively ensemble romp through Miles Davis's *All Blues*.

But the whole event is notable for the way freedom and spontaneity are contained (just) within familiar jazz packages.

CHRIS PARKER

Teenage Fanclub I Don't Want Control Of You

The new single out now. CD1 and CD2 £1.99 each 7" vinyl £0.99 during week of release only.



The Album Songs From Northern Britain out now

Swede inspiration

THE Krazyhouse in Liverpool was aptly named on Tuesday night, when the early deserted surrounding streets concealed a well-filled club with perspiration on draught. The top turn was the Wannadies, the Swedish band celebrating three years as wannabes in the British market and coming up to a crucial crossroads in their career.

Tomorrow they will complete their latest run of British dates with a stint at the Reading Festival, followed on September 15 by the latest delivery of a track that has endured a positively elephantine pregnancy. *You and Me Song* is already the Wannadies' signature piece, a three-minute crystallisation of their fine pop sensibilities delivered by a convoy of armoured guitars.

The only problem is that, for all its radio support, the song has still not been a real, lasting hit. Its forthcoming third outing rides on the back of the video release of the hit film *Romeo + Juliet*, on which it formed part of the soundtrack. If this thoroughly likeable, potentially unforgettable ditty does not become a platter that matters this time round, the Wannadies may as well pack up and head back to Skelleftea.

Such a return to their home in the Arctic Circle should not

LIVE GIG

The Wannadies
Liverpool

be necessary. The Liverpool crowd — not the band later told us, among the most vociferous on these dates — welcomed and warbled along with almost everything in the Wannadies' set. The melodies may only be familiar to the faithful, but as one single followed another, from *Someone Somewhere to Might Be Stars* to *How It Feels to Hit*, it seemed faintly absurd that we were watching a group still standing outside the winner's circle, peering in at others of far less substance.

There was perhaps a slight lull as they returned to their first British album, *Be a Girl*, for *Dying for More*, which may have been less recognised but was no less powerful. But the bouncing and yelling was back in double measure for *You and Me Song*, introduced with typical waggishness by lead singer Pär Wiksten, whose stinging command of colloquial English makes him sound like Sweden's first Cockney. Blessed with both stage presence and giant tunes, they might yet be stars indeed.

PAUL SEXTON




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ARTSTHEATRE



EDUCATION

Summer nights, Will and whisky

Susan Elkin visits Stratford, where Shakespeare School has been in session this week

Stratford-upon-Avon, with its multilingual crowds, swans, ice-creams and flowers, has sweltered, sticky this week, like the rest of Britain. In Stratford's busy midst, 30 secondary English and drama teachers from all over the UK have been on a working holiday with a difference. The fifth annual Prince of Wales Shakespeare School, designed to promote better teaching of and about Shakespeare, began last Saturday. Its initial phase ends this afternoon.

The 1997 theme is *How Theatre Makes Meaning*, based around five current Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) productions, all of which the participants have seen this week. On Tuesday, for example, most of the work was based on *Hamlet*. Then the group saw *Matthew Warshaw's* controversial production to the evening.

They studied and discussed six previous RSC versions of *Hamlet* from reviews and photographs. How can you persuade pupils that there is no definitive way of interpreting Shakespeare? Every director, designer and team of actors creates a unique meaning. Later in the day the teachers had sessions with David Hunt, assistant director of the RSC's current *Hamlet*, and Paul Freeman, the actor playing Claudius.

"This will definitely influence and enhance my teaching," said Bob Winder, deputy head and English teacher at Greenhill School, Tenby. "And I shall be able to disseminate some of what I've learnt here more widely next term."

The week also included sessions led by RSC education staff, by Peter Thomson, Professor of Drama at Exeter University, and a talk this morning by Adrian Noble, the artistic director of the RSC. Sarah Hawkins, of Peter Symonds Sixth Form College in

Winchester, said: "It's all very exciting and inspiring. I'm sure this is the right way to teach Shakespeare."

Part of the payoff for Ms Hawkins's having attended the course is that she will transfer some of her learning to her direction of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* next term. In common with most of the course members, Ms Hawkins had her £275 fee paid by her college.

The launch course in 1993 was funded by the Prince of Wales, who takes an ongoing interest in the work. "Shakespeare and his teaching really is a passion with him," said Wendy Greenhill, head of RSC Education and director of the Prince of Wales Shakespeare School.

Since 1994 Allied Domecq, the major sponsor of the RSC, has funded the school, the total cost of which for this year is £75,000. For once, teachers are being "afforded the sort of professional treatment that their friends in commerce have long taken for granted: they are accommodated in a four-star hotel, they have sat in good theatre seats and they have been given play texts. Allied Domecq, even, included a complimentary bottle of whisky."

This year, for the first time, the school will continue during a long weekend in the autumn at either Newcastle upon Tyne or Plymouth, where the RSC has residencies, and this is included in the cost. "I think the follow-up is an excellent idea," Mr Winder said. "It will give us time to go back into school, to try out some of the ideas, to reflect and to pass some of it on before we come together again." Ms Greenhill and her four education staff



Andrew Wade, RSC's Head of Voice, holds sessions examining the power of words

want the follow-up sessions to be fairly "reactive" — focusing on the specific teaching and sharing the method concerns which course members raise — although there will be additional theatre-based work, too.

Much of the learning is very practical and potentially disconcerting for English specialists who may not be quite so accustomed to working on their feet as their drama colleagues. Andrew Wade, Head of Voice at the RSC, led an impressive two-hour workshop, looking at the power of the words, mostly through a speech by Brutus from *Coriolanus*.

It quickly became clear in Mr Wade's session that one can unravel meaning by working on the shape, sound, quality and arrangement of the words by speaking them in different ways — a far cry from a teacher standing in front of a bored group of students and telling them the meaning of every word.

"You have to learn to see with your ears," Mr Wade

said, pointing out that in Shakespeare's day audiences (the word derives from the Latin verb "to hear") went to hear a play. Today we talk of seeing a play.

"Theatre teaching is definitely not an anti-intellectual alternative to academic work," Ms Greenhill said firmly. "Done properly it is very rigorous and demanding. It adds another major dimension to the learning. It raises real issues in the text which you simply don't notice if you sit silently and passively."

The Prince of Wales Shakespeare School is, inevitably, oversubscribed. "We get hundreds of applications for our 30 places," Ms Greenhill says. So how does she select? "I have three main criteria," she says. "First I look for people who are in a strong position to disseminate what they've learnt. Second, I favour people at some sort of career turning point. Perhaps someone has always taught English but now has to do drama or theatre studies as well. Third, I try to build in a geographical spread."

This year the RSC took the unprecedented step of inviting Ofsted to evaluate the course. Three HMIs have, between them, attended most of this week's sessions and will sim-

ilarly monitor the Plymouth and Newcastle follow-ups. Carole Baker, HMI, was copiously making notes on the sidelines of Mr Wade's workshop. "We discussed the course at length with the RSC in advance and we're putting together a report which may be published later," she said.

It has been a week of intensive learning, little free time and a full timetable. Participants fizzle with enthusiasm. "Apart from anything else," said Victoria Stacey-Masters, who runs a one-woman drama department at St Dunstan's Community School, Glastonbury, "it's such a pleasure to spend a week with like-minded people, talking to your heart's content without anyone thinking you're being pretentious."

Maths benefits from addition of humanity

Critics of modular mathematics syllabuses say that they produce higher grades than terminal examinations, rupture the subject's integrity, inhibit the free flow of teaching and fail to stretch the best candidates as far.

These charges are probably valid. But do they matter? Was the older A-level mathematics set at an appropriate level of difficulty for most candidates? To how many candidates is the integrity of the subject apparent or important at A level, which is closer to the four hills of mathematics than the summit? Should an examination be geared to the intellectual aspirations of the most able at the expense of the majority? Are not the numbers who give up mathematics after GCSE of far greater concern in a technological society that earns its way in the world by its wits?

The challenge is to encourage more students to carry on with mathematics, to offer them reasonable prospects of success if they work hard and to leave them with a sense of achievement. Mathematics exams can fall foul of a kind of catastrophe to which few other subjects are prone: make them a little too hard and they intimidate candidates. In a terminal examination this is a disaster: on a modular system it is usually no more than a temporary setback.

A-level mathematics is profitably studied by all kinds of student. Yet some, one studying English, history and mathematics as a prelude to a humanities degree will have different interests and needs from someone aiming for the mathematical or natural sciences — flexibility is needed.

As for difficulty, comparisons with the past are dangerous. Examinations set on a different syllabus in a different style and with a different paper structure will always tend to appear more demanding than those for which this year's candidates have been prepared. Whether

Modules reward both diligence and brilliance, argues John Puddefoot

er they are genuinely harder relative to the preparation that students receive in a given year is another matter. Terminal examinations allow longer questions to be set and, being usually of three hours' duration, they allow time to return to more difficult questions. Modular syllabuses allow virtually no choice and demand a more

With hard work, students can attain the grades that they deserve

thorough knowledge of the subject by setting more papers and asking many more short questions in less than half the time. They impose their own pressures and disciplines.

Modules also serve other purposes. Accurate numeracy could be examined in a dedicated module, and the results reported separately. The hard work, determination and diligence shown when students retake modules and improve their results could be reflected by recording the results of all modules on A-level certificates, rather than by restricting the number of retakes, as Sir Ron Dearing proposes. A more imaginative "pick 'n' mix" approach, with restricted opportunities to take extra modules in History of Mathematics or Mathematics in Art, would give the subject wider appeal and encourage more to master its technical

aspects. In a subject that becomes progressively more difficult, the option to drop out halfway with an AS level should ensure that no candidate is left empty-handed. While the possibility of adding extra modules means that no candidate need be under-employed. And knowing exactly what you have achieved so far as you approach your last papers reduces stress.

The most significant feature of modular Mathematics is that it has been seen as more accessible and so encouraged students to believe that, with hard work, they will obtain the grades they deserve. Of course, if a candidate who would probably have obtained a D in a terminal examination, and perhaps does poorly in his early modules, goes on to obtain a B by dint of hard work, critics will say that the examination regime was too easy, while advocates will say that it gave him a chance to show his true potential.

In any case, a general examination is not the place to try to stretch pupils. A student who is unwilling to be stretched beyond a syllabus by the time he takes his A levels has not been bitten by the bug essential for excellence. An "interesting" A-level question will almost always leave most candidates for dead. It is important to examine what candidates know rather than what they do not.

Of course, there are gains and losses. Of course, things can be improved. Of course, we are not examining what we used to examine in the way we used to examine it. But we are breaking down the fear that accompanies higher school Mathematics with modular A levels that are more humane and accessible than their linear counterparts, and rewarding persistence and application at least as much as the ability to be brilliant (or not) for three hours on one or two hot days in June.

● The author is head of mathematics at Eton College

English and Scottish systems could boost each other, says Judith McClure

Let's share exam answers

As a head teacher for six years in England, I shared the view held by many that A levels needed reform: it was clearly necessary both to give greater breadth for all students, including the most academic, and to provide appropriate courses for the greater range of students who wished to pursue their education into the sixth form.

For four years as a head in Scotland, I have watched closely the proposals for the development of courses and qualifications on both sides of the border. The two systems have much to contribute to each other, yet the debate has been tantalisingly regional.

Even after Sir Ron Dearing's 16-19 report, there is an increasing tendency to look to continental models of breadth as a guide for English reform, without considering the advantages of the Higher examinations used in Scotland. In Scotland, the new *Higher Still* programme, commendably consultative and certainly offering wider opportunities for all students, has not tried to look to the undoubted strengths of A levels in its efforts to improve the second sixth-form year (S6).

This lack of understanding of one educational system by the other is extraordinary when one considers the use made by students of the qualifications offered. Many Scottish students attend English universities, where admissions tutors have made the effort to come to terms with Scottish examinations, and the size of the English intake at the universities of Edinburgh and St Andrews, for instance, is considerable.

The Ucas system is UK-wide, yet its current use demonstrates the gaps in mutual understanding of qualifications. This is nowhere clearer than in the points system: A and AS level grades can be summarised in numerical form, and the performance of candidates and indeed schools can be assessed in this way. But there is no agreed point system for the Scottish examinations of Highers and Sixth Year Studies.

This is not to say that the use of points is an effective way of measuring academic and personal qualities for university entrance, and Ucas is moving to a wider way of presenting achievement; however,



Philip Croker: seven A-level A grades

the absence of points indicates the lack of any effort to determine the similarities and differences of the demands of English and Scottish examinations.

It is important that something should be done about this. The Scottish system gives to students in the first year of the sixth form (S5) precisely what their English colleagues lack: breadth.

The ability to do five subjects means that options can be left open, that the science/arts divide can be broken, and that students aiming for university can acquire a much broader range of skills and knowledge. At the end of the year more specialised choices can be made on the basis of the first year's experience and achievement.

The problem for the Scottish system, so clearly analysed in the Howie Report, has been the status of what is on offer in S6. The Certificate of Sixth Year Studies, while it has many strengths as a preparation for university, simply never acquired the cachet of A level: no one has ever referred to it as a gold standard. As a result, Scottish students who remained at school for a second sixth-form year have, in general, not achieved as well as their English counterparts in the second year,

though many schools have provided stimulating and effective programmes which have included a wide range of extra-curricular possibilities.

The *Higher Still* programme is seeking to remedy this by a new qualification, that of Advanced Higher. While conceptually a very good solution, the success of this examination in providing more depth to the S6 year depends on university recognition, and this is at the heart of the present debate.

The English and Scottish systems have much to gain from each other. The five-Higher first year in the Sixth Form is an excellent start, and the English system would benefit from its depth and challenge of Advanced levels would add much to the second year in Scotland.

At a very basic level, we need to have a clear view of the relationship of the different examinations which are being used as the basis for admission to both English and Scottish universities. It is hard to see how universities can aim to provide curricular progression from school to university without there being an understanding of the development of students following different courses.

As a practical example, the results achieved by the 75 members of St George's Upper Sixth included Higher, Advanced level and Certificate of Sixth Year Studies examinations. Some chose Advanced levels as their main thrust; they were able to broaden them by additional Higher courses. Others chose five Highers in the first year. In the second they were able to add depth to their studies by taking Advanced Levels if they wished (or CSYS in English and History); if necessary they could supplement their Higher success rate.

Roughly equal numbers of our students enter English and Scottish universities; the examinations taken did not determine the choice. The fact that our very good results are impenetrable to those compiling a league table of schools based on Ucas points brings us back to my general argument: no satisfactory basis for comparison of English and Scottish examinations exists, yet clearly each system has virtues that the other could well emulate.

● Judith McClure is head of St George's School, Edinburgh

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THE TIMES

EDUCATION

David Charter finds most students are completely lacking in financial expertise. Harvey Atkinson gives advice on where to find it

Not only well read, but well into the red

Most sixth-formers are alarmingly naive about the financial responsibilities they will face as undergraduates, with six out of ten believing they will get through their university years without having to borrow any money at all.

They are clearly in for a shock. The latest figures on student hardship show that seven out of every ten students graduate from university or college with a heavy burden of debt, sometimes running into five figures.

To make matters worse, the A-level pupils who took part in the study were questioned just days after the Government's announcement that tuition fees of £1,000 a year are to be charged from 1998, and that the maintenance grant is to be phased out.

The survey, by NatWest Bank, concludes that students are poor at predicting and managing their financial situations as undergraduates. The bank believes there is a clear correlation between financial naivety at school or sixth-form college and permanent debt at university.

Nearly a quarter of those who were asked to plan out the costs of university life gave no figures for rent or bills, even though all students living away from home will have to pay these.

Half made an allowance for Council Tax, even though students are exempt from paying it. One in seven sixth-formers believes that more than 20 per cent of total resources will go on course

books, compared with the 4 per cent reported by undergraduates.

Asked to break down their likely university incomes, students said borrowed funds would account for only 6 per cent of their expected resources, compared with actual undergraduate figures, which are closer to 30 per cent.

NatWest followed up the survey with a list of tips to help students to cope financially in their first year. Advice includes:

- Live in university-owned accommodation for the first year if given the choice, because you will know at the outset your total living costs each term.

- Confront financial worries early and discuss them with your bank. Many banks have specialist student advisers at on-campus branches.

- Only have one current account. One is easier to monitor, and research indicates that students with more than one are likely to have larger debts.

- Do not wait until you are desperate to apply for a Government Student Loan, as applications can take a long time to process. If the loan comes through earlier than expected, put it in a high interest-earning account until you need the money.

The survey also found a radical shift in sixth-formers' attitudes towards money.

In 1994, pupils were very intolerant of debt, a trend that

steadily reversed at each year of university. Half of today's school-leavers consider debt an integral part of student lifestyle, compared with 30 per cent in 1996. Now, only 30 per cent believe there is no excuse for borrowing money, down from 37 per cent in 1996.

The issue of money looms larger in students' reasons for going to university. A total of 86 per cent of those questioned said that the main reason for entering higher education was to improve career prospects, up from 78 per cent in 1994.

NatWest has launched a new on-campus programme comprising activities and publications to help students to understand money management better, and will continue to monitor student attitudes to finance, in partnership with schools and universities.

FINDING the right bank account for your needs can be a bewildering task, with so many banks offering a range of incentives and services to students.

But as our table shows, it is worth shopping around for an account and looking out for advantages beyond the initial free CD or introductory cash gift.

One of the key things is to ensure that there is a branch at your college. If possible, seek out a branch that has a student adviser, who will be able to offer expert advice

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Compiled by Harvey Atkinson

Make a plan - or you might lose the plot

Banks can help in choosing the right account and drawing up a budget

and information when you need it.

If you already have a bank account, it may be worth changing it to that bank's student package. You should also think about opening an account at the same bank as your parents, as this will make any cash transfers easier. Some banks encourage this by offering a free five if your parents already have an account.

When the account is open, set up a budget plan; student

advisers can assist with this. A budget will be useful if you need to apply for an overdraft, because if you can clearly and accurately show income and expenditure, the bank will be better able to assess your financial needs.

When going to discuss an overdraft or other financial service at the bank, remember that smart dress is likely to ensure better treatment.

You should always read statements and keep a close eye on spending levels. If you

think you will end up in the red or exceed agreed overdraft levels, contact your student adviser at the bank as soon as possible. This should prevent any unexpected charges and show the bank that the account holder is being responsible for his or her finances.

Many of the banks offer annual fee-free credit cards; these should be used only if you can meet the monthly payments as the interest rates can be costly. Wherever pos-

sible, commercial loans should be avoided, as interest rates will inevitably be higher than bank overdraft rates and repayment terms will not be flexible.

Part-time work should be considered as an option to help to make ends meet. However, you need to think carefully about the number of hours you will work and ensure part-time work does not affect your studies. Most student unions run job shops, which limit the amount of

hours per week and ensure a fair wage.

Students who still find it hard to make ends meet could apply to their university or college access fund. This is a hardship grant administered by individual colleges. Contact your student union or welfare services for details of how to apply.

For advice, support and information on any aspect of money management, students can always turn to student union welfare or college welfare services. These can, if necessary, negotiate with banks on a student's behalf.

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EDUCATION

3

Attitude is the biggest handicap

Hugh Thompson finds that many universities are reluctant to cater for the disabled

It is estimated that about 4 per cent of undergraduates have physical or mental disabilities. But, in terms of the general population, those with handicaps are massively under-represented on degree courses. If you have a disability, you are only a third as likely to do a degree.

Although universities may not be appropriate for those with severe learning difficulties, many others are put off by the lack of facilities and the attitudes of both school and university.

Sophie Corlett, assistant director of the National Bureau for Students with Disabilities, says universities were exempted under the Disability Discrimination Act. But while some have made exceptional efforts and two-thirds are doing what they can, a number still have to wake up to the fact that the disabled are part of the mainstream, like any minority, they must be catered for.

"We still get reports of lecturers who will not clip on microphones so students who are hard of hearing can hear what they say, or others who will not face the class so that those who rely on lip-reading can take notes," she says. "It is as much a question of attitude as resources."

One university refused to give a severely disabled student a priority parking place near the lecture hall entrance until his local authority disability sticker had arrived. While some universities have taken considerable time and effort, others are embarrassing in their lack of provision.

One of the main disabilities suffered by students is dyslexia. Universities can provide a range of aids, such as tape recorders for taking notes, carbon pads so a fellow student can give a copy, and computer software with special word packages that help to organise and retain information. Other students need almost 24-hour care and attention, but with the help of



Lancaster has won awards for its facilities for the disabled: 500 of its 10,000 students registered a disability when they applied

DSS and local authority grants, extra funds can be found.

One university that has won awards for its facilities for the disabled is Lancaster. Its modern, centralised campus gives it certain advantages, but its management has also taken a positive view. Some 500 of Lancaster's 10,000 students registered a disability when they applied.

Rosemary Turner, the special needs adviser, says: "Nobody is ever going to be able to help all the disabled all the time, but you can keep improving what you offer. We have taken the line that to be a centre of excellence and attract the best students, we must not exclude anyone who is good enough. We do recommend that disabled students see us first; we had to turn one

away because our lifts were not big enough for the wheelchair. False promises are probably worse than rejection."

Not all universities make such efforts. One claimed its campus was "too hilly" for it to make any provision for the disabled. Creating facilities for the disabled is seen as part and parcel of a modern inclusive learning institution that tries to create flexible and accommodating programmes for all.

A government report showed that, compared to able-bodied students, a greater proportion of the disabled were men, and had entered university when older than 25, which means that they are more likely to have partners and children. Disabled students also suffer from the constraints of "access and

travel" and "lack of confidence". Fewer are likely to go to university as a natural progression from school, and more state "self-esteem" and an "alternative to unemployment" as the reason for going to university.

Nicholas Gibbon is a second-year student doing biomedical sciences at the University of Bradford. Because of brain damage at birth, he has co-ordination problems and symptoms of dyslexia. A disabled student allowance (DSA) bought him a computer and printer, greatly alleviating his handwriting and communication problems. The grant means that he can have many of his own reference books, rather than continually hav-

ing to go to the library. "The disability department staff have been invaluable in administering my DSA and liaising with my tutors to make sure I get the appropriate support and extra time that I need," he says. "For any disabled person thinking of going to university my advice is, don't be discouraged and think you can't cope — once you get there, you'll have a great time and make a lot of friends."

Further information: Higher Education and Disability, the guide to higher education for people with disabilities 1997, includes sections on choosing the right course, funding, support facilities and an institution guide. From Skill, National Bureau for Students with Disabilities, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA. £5 for professionals, £1.50 for students

Spoilt for choice even at this hour

Still openings in engineering and technology, says John O'Leary

THE SCRAMBLE for the last free higher education places ensured that vacancies on the most popular arts and social science courses disappeared almost as soon as they were advertised. Although modular programmes ensure that the lists are still lengthy, single honours degrees in subjects such as English or law are at a premium in the old universities.

Not so engineering and technology. Even this summer's fee-induced panic has left qualified candidates with plenty of choice. The lists in today's Times are as long as they were when clearing began ten days ago.

Even a number of the universities which feature at the head of the Times Good University Guide rankings for engineering have places available. Of the top 20 for mechanical engineering, Cardiff, Sheffield, Bath, Bristol, UMIST, Coventry, Loughborough, University College, London, and Imperial College, London, were full yesterday.

In the more popular areas of

computing, which also appears in today's lists, several of the top 20 universities still have vacancies. Kent, Southampton, Dundee, Heriot-Watt, Lancaster and Aberystwyth were still taking inquiries yesterday.

Admissions officers report increased pressure on places in all subject areas this year, but many universities expect to have places available, as usual, right up to the start of term. Even with the access courses and foundation programmes put on by universities to maximise the number of potential entrants, there are not enough qualified candidates to go round.

Entrance requirements for most engineering courses remain low: two A levels of any grade will secure a place in many colleges and new universities.

But drop-out rates are correspondingly high. Students should think carefully about whether they can cope with the subject before enrolling with minimal qualifications.

TODAY'S TOP UNIVERSITIES

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

- 1 Imperial
- 2 Cambridge
- 3 Sheffield
- 4 UMIST
- 5 Bath
- 6 Loughborough
- 7 UCL
- 8 Queen's Belfast
- 9 Birmingham
- 10 Newcastle
- 11 Bradford
- 12 Nottingham
- 13 Surrey
- 14 Leeds
- 15 Aston
- 16 South Bank
- 17 Teesside

Subject not assessed in Scotland

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

- 1 Cardiff, Sheffield
- 2 Bath
- 3 Nottingham

- 5 Bristol
- 6 Cranfield
- 7 Leeds, Manchester, Strathclyde
- 10 Reading
- 11 UMIST
- 12 Queen's (Belfast), Imperial
- 14 UCL, Southampton
- 16 Coventry, Glasgow, Manchester Metropolitan
- 19 Greenwich, Hull, Loughborough

COMPUTING

- 1 Cambridge, Warwick, York
- 4 Edinburgh
- 5 Glasgow, London, Imperial, Oxford
- 8 Exeter, Swansea
- 10 Manchester, Southampton
- 12 Kent
- 13 Bath, Bristol, Dundee, Heriot-Watt, Lancaster, St Andrews
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Time is short as RFU sets out in search of Rowell's replacement as England coach

Slemen and Best head wanted list

England coaching ladder needs to have firmer steps

By DAVID HANDS AND MARK SOUSTER

ENGLAND'S pursuit of a new rugby union coach was under way yesterday, but the Rugby Football Union (RFU) will probably have to postpone its plans to make the post full-time. Apart from anything else, the new incumbent must come to terms with the fact that his first job will be to prepare a team to beat South Africa, New Zealand and Australia within the space of a month and with the three southern-hemisphere powers looming, it would take a brave man to look further down the road.

The two favoured candidates, after the resignation of Jack Rowell on Wednesday and the withdrawal from contention on Monday of Ian McGeechan, will be Mike Slemen and Dick Best. McGeechan, coach to the British Isles in South Africa this summer, described his decision to withdraw as "one of the most difficult decisions I have ever had to take. It was very difficult, very confusing and I might well regret it."

Slemen is the senior of Rowell's two assistants, ahead of Les Cusworth, while Best has previous experience of the job and is immediately available. In ideal circumstances, the RFU would prefer Best to have cleared up any loose ends left by his abrupt dismissal from Harlequins in May, but these circumstances are far from ideal. The union was prepared to accept Rowell on a part-time basis until a telephone call told them that he was not available.

Yesterday, Rowell insisted that there was nothing sinister in the timing of his decision. "It was pure coincidence," he said. "I was at a board meeting in London and one of the issues on the agenda was the chairman's statement of his intentions. The company had to know that and then what I was going to do, so I called Bill Beaumont [the chairman of the playing committee] and told him I was not to be considered."

Rowell, who took over from Geoff Cooke in 1994, has consistently maintained that his business interests would come ahead of rugby in the event of a conflict. He said that his mind was made up as early as last March that he could not "ride two horses", and that the England job was not a realistic option unless he was prepared to lose an estimated £1.5

million in share options from the computer company that he chairs. "The die was finally cast after the Australia game," Rowell said of the week in which it was disclosed that the RFU had been speaking to Graham Henry, coach to Auckland Blues, in New Zealand. That was just over a month ago, and Rowell's rage was transparent when Fran Cotton, in his new position of RFU management board vice-chairman (playing), championed so publicly the cause of McGeechan. Rowell had reasons to believe that he lacked the confidence of his rugby employers.

"I did talk around the possibility as I enjoy pressure and I like living with a lot on my mind, but it was not practicable," Rowell said. "Not doing the England job will leave a huge void in my life."

"I have had huge pleasure from rugby and I have enjoyed building teams at Gosforth, Bath and England. I have always said that doing something with England was a great privilege. Building the present squad has been the highlight. The grand slam and the championships were a big thing, but watching England develop a new style, that was very uplifting."

"No one gets everything right. I hope, though, we got most of it. Criticism goes with the job. Look at Glenn Hoddle — one defeat against Italy and the sky falls in. But, when you are at the top, you have to be mentally tough enough to take it. I have always tried not to criticise players or other people, and I won't start now. I have tried to do the job with the utmost dignity."

Neither Slemen nor Cusworth has been contacted by the RFU, but Slemen is ambitious to climax an eight-year association with the union by coaching the national team in his own right. He will not, however, concede his teaching post at Merchant Taylors' Crossby. "England is a short-term job," he said. "I don't see the coach going beyond a four-year cycle, or, in this case, 2½ years [up to the 1999 World Cup]."

"I would then be 48 and still enjoying what I do now as a teacher. I would like to be England coach, but the only way I would accept it is if the school gave me the time off. I have been there for 20 years and they have been very good to me."



Ian McGeechan?



Les Cusworth?



Richard Hill?

Who can follow in Jack Rowell's footsteps?



Mike Slemen?

Clive Woodward?

Dick Best?

SIX CANDIDATES FOR THE ENGLAND JOB

MIKE SLEMEN

The former England and British Isles wing has been involved in the England coaching hierarchy for nearly eight years. Having assisted Jack Rowell with the senior squad for the past two, he knows the present playing squad and would provide valuable continuity. Slemen, 46, will not do the job full-time.

DICK BEST

Coached England from 1992-94 and has the great merit of being available. Long-term association with Harlequins as player, coach and director of rugby terminated abruptly in May and he seeks a return to a hands-on role within the game. His appointment would mean the RFU losing a large slice of humble pie.

IAN MCGEECHAN

One of the world's best coaches — two successes with the Lions, a grand slam with Scotland. Talked into allowing his name to go forward by Fran Cotton but withdrew from consideration on Monday in deference to his long-term contract with Northampton. Unlikely that the RFU will go back to him.

LES CUSWORTH

Coached England to the 1993 World Cup. Served since 1994. The former England stand-off half, 43, has just taken on a five-year contract with Worcester and feels deeply the criticism directed at Rowell. Like Slemen, has helped to develop the present players.

CLIVE WOODWARD

Coached the England under-21 team last year and ambitious in his rugby philosophy, which was developed in Australia in the mid-1980s. Perhaps too ambitious for a conservative English hierarchy, just as he was as a player. Not contracted to Bath, where he assists Andy Robinson, and therefore available.

RICHARD HILL

An England coach of the future, almost certainly, but not at this time. Hill has signed a long-term contract with Gloucester that would allow him to help England on a part-time basis, but will not go full-time. At 38, the former scrum half is the youngest of the candidates and still developing his coaching and management skills.

England coaching ladder needs to have firmer steps

Fran Cotton should look at rugby union's teaching structure, David Hands suggests

IF THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) believes that it has a viable coaching structure in place, then the resignation of Jack Rowell from the position of England coach should not pose a problem. His immediate associates, Mike Slemen and Les Cusworth, should be adjusted to fill the vacancy and life for England would go on.

The problem for the RFU is two-fold: that it seeks to change the nature of the coaching role by making it full-time and by the hand-grenade lobbed into the structure by Fran Cotton.

Cotton has clearly championed the cause of Ian McGeechan, who coached the British Isles to success in South Africa this summer. Why should he not? McGeechan has all the qualities required for the England job; he is one of the best in the world, his record shows as much, his only weakness being that he is not part of the RFU coaching system.

He must have spent most of his playing and coaching life in England but his national association is with Scotland. That should not matter, he is a professional and players are becoming used to differing nationalities, at club and country level. England have given Alan Davies (a Welshman admittedly but brought up in England) to Wales and Brian Ashton to Ireland; Australia have given Alex Evans to Wales. New Zealand's Murray Kidd to Ireland, and club rugby in Britain and Ireland is littered with Anglo-Irish coaches.

For McGeechan the temptation was to carry on where he had left off with the Lions, so many of whose players were English. But the insertion of his name by Cotton backed the system. England have a senior team, they have an A team, they have an under-21 team, they have a highly successful 19-group schools team which, under the guidance of Geoff Wappett, is cutting a swathe through Australia. If that ladder is to mean anything, then England must

draw from it now in their hour of need. The fact that there appears, on the surface at least, to be hesitation suggests that the ladder has some rickety steps that is the result in part of the endless chopping and changing among potential England coaches over the last decade. Ten years ago you might have bet money on Davies becoming England coach after an outstanding display by his A team against France at Bath.

By the end of 1988 he and David Robinson had been off-loaded, disillusioned men and Davies was reclaimed by Wales. He is now back in England, with Bristol, but his time has probably gone. Roger Uttley was introduced successfully, and may well return in a new guise as manager this season. He concluded his tenure of office with England's appearance in the 1991 World Cup final.

In contrast, Slemen's role within the system looked shaky at one time. Dick Best found his services discontinued in 1994 after an excellent record of 13 wins from 17 matches and now the RFU is looking at a crop of young coaches, all men with promise with their way to make but desperately short of the experience and stature which the England job now requires.

The coaching structure is the direct responsibility of Don Rutherford, the RFU director of rugby, whose approach to Auckland's Graham Henry in July so angered Rowell and probably tipped the balance in favour of resignation. Rutherford argued then, and would argue again, that it is his responsibility to maintain contact with the world's best in a fluid professional world.

In an ideal world, the best would be found at home but the debate of the past few days makes it patently clear that it is not. Perhaps that is the area to which Cotton, who has responsibility for the playing philosophy in England, should now turn his gaze.

Roger Uttley may return in a different guise, that of manager

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Most declarers see the need to duck the opening lead when they hold A x x facing three small. There are some situations that are essentially the same but more difficult to spot. The hand for this week's Refreshers comes from a club team tournament.

Dealer South	Love all	IMPs
<p> ♠ A 7 3 ♥ 8 6 5 ♦ A J 9 7 2 ♣ K Q J </p>	<p> ♠ A 2 ♥ A 8 4 ♦ 8 6 5 ♣ K Q J </p>	<p> ♠ 8 8 8 5 ♥ A J 10 4 ♦ K 10 3 ♣ A 10 3 </p>
<p> S W N E 1 D Pass 1 H Pass 2 NT All Pass </p>	<p> S W N E 1 H Pass 1 H Pass 2 NT All Pass </p>	

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: seven of clubs

West led the seven of clubs to East's ten. At one table declarer won and ran the queen of diamonds. East won and played a second club. After West had taken four club winners he switched to a heart and declarer went two down.

At the other table declarer ducked the ten of clubs. East played a second club and declarer's king was allowed to hold (though there was not much point in West ducking — he could tell that East did not have a third club). Declarer now took a diamond finesse but when East won he could do no harm and in the fullness of time declarer made three spades, a heart, four diamonds and a club.

Although declarer did well, East could have done better. He could tell from his hand

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Mind Sports Olympiad

In the chess section of the Mind Sports Olympiad in progress at the Royal Festival Hall, Michael Adams, the Scottish champion, leads with eight points from nine. In joint second place with seven points are Keith Arkell, James Plaskett and Matthew Sadler. Plaskett moved up the field thanks to this energetic win.

White: James Plaskett. Black: Julian Hodgson. Mind Sports Olympiad August 1997

Rank	Player	Score
1	Adams	8.0
2	Arkell	7.0
3	Plaskett	7.0
4	Sadler	7.0
5	Hodgson	6.0
6	Adams	6.0
7	Arkell	6.0
8	Plaskett	6.0
9	Sadler	6.0
10	Hodgson	5.0
11	Adams	5.0
12	Arkell	5.0
13	Plaskett	5.0
14	Sadler	5.0
15	Hodgson	4.0
16	Adams	4.0
17	Arkell	4.0
18	Plaskett	4.0
19	Sadler	4.0
20	Hodgson	3.0
21	Adams	3.0
22	Arkell	3.0
23	Plaskett	3.0
24	Sadler	3.0
25	Hodgson	2.0
26	Adams	2.0
27	Arkell	2.0
28	Plaskett	2.0
29	Sadler	2.0
30	Hodgson	1.0

Virtual chess

On Saturday August 23, the first virtual chess tournament will be launched. Entry is free and those interested can enter by e-mail to mso@chessworks.com

Mainline table

Country	Score	Total
England	3	8
United States	2	0
Barbados	1	0
France	1	0
Holland	1	0
Ireland	0	1
Portugal	0	1
South Africa	0	1
Italy	0	1
New Zealand	0	1
Scotland	0	1

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Bath

A season with no trophy will only add to Bath's motivation and, if they can overcome the absence of so many injured internationals in the first month, they are sure to lay down a stern challenge. Jim Blair, their new fitness adviser, has brought many New Zealand drills with him, the coaching team has had time to adjust to the role and the squad has already proved that it can play rugby of the highest quality. Perhaps still vulnerable on soft grounds against bigger packs. Coaching director: Andy Keenan. Head coach: Clive Woodward. Captain: Andy Wood.

TRANSFERS: In: Russell Earnshaw (West Hartlepool), Iwan Evans (Llanelli), Mark Ragan (Bristol), Out: Graham Dawe (Sale), Neil McCarthy (Gloucester), Ian Sedgem (Gloucester).

1997 position: 3rd, 1996 predictions: 1st.

Bristol

Survived last season's relegation play-offs with relative ease but looking vulnerable again. The loss of three internationals forward is a damaging blow but unity of spirit is strong and the refurbished Memorial Ground is an attractive venue. Much will depend on the international halves, Robert Jones and Paul Burke, and Bristol must discover a cutting edge that they have lacked for so long. Director of rugby: Alan Davies. Captain: Martin Jones.

TRANSFERS: In: Gareth Baber (Aberystwyth), Alastair Bell (Bath), Kevin Davis (Newport), Mark Gidley (Pontypridd), David Lee (Cardiff), Steve Pearce (Cardiff), Tom Robinson (Bristol), Neil Sedgem (Gloucester), Steve Price (Cardiff), Mike Worsley (Cardiff), Out: Craig Barrow (Cardiff), Dave Barrow (Cardiff), Mark Ragan (Bristol), Simon Shaw (Worcester), Richard Smith (Sale), Mark Talbot (Worcester), Andrew Wardley (Worcester).

1997 position: 5th, 1996 predictions: 11th.

Gloucester

Swift to recognise that the home-grown passion that carried them clear of relegation last season will not be sufficient this time. The injection of Tom Wallkinshaw's cash has allowed the purchase of overseas backs who should complement the plentiful local talent in the pack. A club that, after some traumatic years, believes in itself again — which is good for English rugby as a whole and a complement to one of the country's most promising young coaches, Richard Hill.

Director of rugby: Richard Hill. Captain: Peter Glenville.

TRANSFERS: In: Tony Fawcett (Western Samoa), Andrew Gads (Northampton), Neil McCarthy (Bath), Nick O'Brien (Newport), Ian Sedgem (Gloucester), Steve Price (Cardiff), Richard Smith (Sale), Andrew Wardley (Worcester), Out: Graham Dawe (Sale), Neil McCarthy (Gloucester), Ian Sedgem (Gloucester), Steve Price (Cardiff), Richard Smith (Sale), Andrew Wardley (Worcester).

CLUB-BY-CLUB GUIDE TO THE ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP FIRST DIVISION

Harlequins

Despite the advent of professionalism, Harlequins have yet to overcome their ability to sparkle like diamonds one week and look like a team of mules the next. The new management style of Andy Keenan and the ever-present captaincy of Keith Wood may bring a new dimension to a talented squad, but not enough to suggest that consolidation rather than trophies will be the watchword.

Director of rugby: Andy Keenan. Captain: Keith Wood.

TRANSFERS: In: Laurent Baffet (Gosport), Denny Ball (Edinburgh), Richard Horton (Cardiff), Out: Graham Dawe (Sale), Neil McCarthy (Gloucester), Ian Sedgem (Gloucester).

1997 position: 2nd, 1996 predictions: 1st.

Leicester

Leicester found that progress in all three competitions last season did not guarantee success in any, but winning the cup brought some silverware to Watford Road and the all-English policy that shone through has had overseas talent grafted on. Some loyal servants have departed to make way but, if the new combinations click under Gregor Townsend's transfer, sign and club hunt once again and could offer their spectators rugby of an outstanding quality.

Director of rugby: Bob Dwyer. Captain: Martin Jones.

TRANSFERS: In: Martin Gony (Bristol), Paul Gush (Gloucester), Jamie Hamilton (London), Scottie Hastings (Cardiff), Out: Graham Dawe (Sale), Neil McCarthy (Gloucester), Ian Sedgem (Gloucester).

1997 position: 4th, 1996 predictions: 2nd.

London Irish

The Ediles barely survived last season, even though they dismissed Coventry in the play-offs and a cluster of points. There has been little significant change of personnel at Sunbury, though the retention of Jeremy Davidson was highly important and there will be greater confidence from the financial arrangements put in place during the summer. However, their general popularity and the capacity to produce the occasional shock result will not be enough in so intense a first division.

Director of rugby: Mike McCall. Captain: Conor O'Shea.

TRANSFERS: In: Martin Gony (Bristol), Paul Gush (Gloucester), Jamie Hamilton (London), Scottie Hastings (Cardiff), Out: Graham Dawe (Sale), Neil McCarthy (Gloucester), Ian Sedgem (Gloucester).

Newcastle

It should be easy, with so many high-quality players — seven with Lions experience — to make the switch from second division to first. But it may not prove so. If Newcastle can come through their first half-drawn games and pick up the pace without dropping too many points, they will be fighting for European qualification at the season's end but they wobbled sufficiently frequently last season to suggest that consolidation rather than trophies will be the watchword.

Director of rugby: Rob Andrew. Captain: Steve Breen.

TRANSFERS: In: David Byrne (West Hartlepool), Michael Fitzgerald (Bristol), Out: Graham Dawe (Sale), Neil McCarthy (Gloucester), Ian Sedgem (Gloucester).

1997 position: 3rd, 1996 predictions: 5th.

Northampton

The club best-equipped to deal with professionalism according to Tim Rodger, their captain, since they have struggled to make an impact. They must learn to win away from Franklin's Gardens, they must capitalise on the confidence of their Lions and put the Gregor Townsend transfer, sign and club hunt once again and could offer their spectators rugby of an outstanding quality.

Director of rugby: Tim Rodger. Captain: Tim Rodger.

TRANSFERS: In: Andy Byth (Newcastle), Out: Graham Dawe (Sale), Neil McCarthy (Gloucester), Ian Sedgem (Gloucester).

1997 position: 6th, 1996 predictions: 8th.

Richmond

Like Newcastle, an expensive collection of individuals who must now find coherence. But there is a bubble of youthful enthusiasm about Richmond that could make the difference in tight matches. If it were backed up by consistent goalkeeping, then some fancied teams could come unstuck at the Athletic Ground. Their final placing, like that of Newcastle, could depend upon how swiftly they get into their first division stride.

Director of rugby: John Kingston. Captain: Ben Coker.

TRANSFERS: In: Barry Williams (Newport), Out: Graham Dawe (Sale), Neil McCarthy (Gloucester), Ian Sedgem (Gloucester).

Sale

Anyone who plays Sale is on their guard these days and the Cheshire club, desperately trying to upgrade their little ground at Brooklands, may find it harder this season, despite the assurance that John Mitchell, the inspirational New Zealander, will remain with them. The loss of David Morris and the injury to John Rowell could be critical, though their achievement in reaching last season's cup final will serve as motivation for them to go one better. They will hope to avoid injuries to key players in their attempt to retain the flag.

Director of coaching: John Mitchell. Captain: John Mitchell.

TRANSFERS: In: Kevin Ellis (Bridgend), Out: Graham Dawe (Sale), Neil McCarthy (Gloucester), Ian Sedgem (Gloucester).

1997 position: 7th, 1996 predictions: 10th.

Saracens

Another team that must make more of its component parts than it did last season, especially with Francois Pienaar in the coaching role. The back row/half back and should really be one of the best in the country, but they need greater certainty about their quality out wide. The Lions experience of Paul Wallace, Richard Hill and Tony Phipps will be a valuable asset, if they can lure significant numbers to watch them at Watford, the new venue offers an attractive arena for the full-game they seek to play.

Director of rugby: Mark Evans. Captain: Ryan Donohue.

TRANSFERS: In: Alex Bennett (Cardiff), Out: Graham Dawe (Sale), Neil McCarthy (Gloucester), Ian Sedgem (Gloucester).

1997 position: 8th, 1996 predictions: 7th.

Wasps

Winning the 1996-97 title was a huge achievement for Wasps, retaining it will be an even bigger one. Every opponent will be gunning for them, this time around. If they can retain that precious capacity for winning tight matches, which carried them through last season, and Gareth Rees continues to kick goals, then another title could yet grace Loftus Road — but it will be a neck-and-neck struggle when the Allied Dunbar Premiership finally winds down next May.

Director of rugby: Nigel Melville. Captain: Gareth Rees.

TRANSFERS: In: Gareth Rees (Cardiff), Out: Graham Dawe (Sale), Neil McCarthy (Gloucester), Ian Sedgem (Gloucester).

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

YERBA BUENA
a. Good morning
b. A Mexican exclamation
c. A herb

SUKEY

a. A carriage
b. A kettle
c. A tart

SERAB
a. A mirage
b. A beetle
c. An Indian Arab

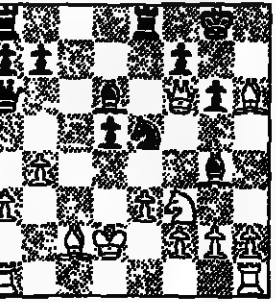
VOMITY

a. Redolent of vomit
b. Enmity
c. Speed

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

Black to play. This position is from the game Chufentes — Picket, Holland 1997. Black is threatened with a brutal checkmate on g7. What is his best response?



Solution on page 46

WATER POLO

SEVILLE. European championships:
Women: Semi-finals: Italy 8 Holland 7
Russia 11 Spain 6

SWIMMING: RUSSIAN MAKES WINNING RETURN TO EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Smith sees gold run ended by Hase

FROM CRAIG LORD IN SEVILLE

THERE could be little doubt that Alexander Popov and Dagmar Hase produced the most popular victories of the European championships here so far yesterday — the Russian for a display of excellence and courage, the former East German for stopping the Michelle Smith gold rush.

A wall of swimmers, coaches and spectators rose to their feet at the San Pablo pool when Popov cruised home in the manner of a battleship ploughing through a flotilla of tugs to collect a record fourth successive title in the 100 metres freestyle. The time

Seville results 45

was 49.09sec, a championship record by 0.01sec and the latest in a series of swims in which Popov has emulated his hero, Sergei Bubka, the pole vaulter by shaving fractions off his own previous best mark.

Popov's style, grace and ability to roll on a wave in a perpetual motion that suffers no "dead zone" or break in stroke pattern, is all the more remarkable for coming a year after he was stabbed in the stomach by a water-melon seller in a street fight in Moscow.

Popov, 25, a Russian who trains at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, said that his effort marked his best technical effort in 2½ years, which included his two victories at the Atlanta Olympic Games last year, when he became the first man since

Johnny "Tarzan" Weismuller in 1928 to retain the 100 metres title.

The same wall of applause that greeted Popov had earlier hailed Hase who, as the 1992 Olympic champion, did to Smith in the 400 metres freestyle, what the 1996 Olympic champion from Ireland had done to those in her first two races here.

With Smith in lane eight and Hase in lane two, the battling pair edged each other across the pool, but Smith seemed to have the advantage as she was on Hase's blind side down the last length.

Hase, who at 27 is four days younger than Smith, had the extra stamina, though, and edged away in the closing 20 metres to clock 4min 09.58sec to Smith's 4min 10.50sec. In Atlanta, Smith had swum a time of 4min 07.25sec.

The irony of Hase's defeat of Smith, which cost the Irishwoman a reputed five-figure sum promised by a company for each gold medal that she wins, was lost on few. Smith had been halted in her efforts to surpass the record of four individual European titles by one of the last products of the East German medal factory that won 97 out of 144 titles until the Berlin Wall fell in 1989.

The irony went deeper still: Hase has been at the centre of speculation about drugs use in much the same way as Smith, who failed to make the top 16 in any races in the 1989 championships in Bonn, when Hase won the 200 metres backstroke for East Germany. To win her 1992 Olympic title, Hase beat Ja-



Grace under pressure: the final of the women's 100 metres backstroke at the European championships gets under way. It was won by Antje Buschschulte, of Germany

net Evans, the then reigning champion from the United States and the woman who in Atlanta said that there was "speculation about her [Smith] out there on the deck", which sparked the controversy.

Hase is a former training partner of Astrid Strauss, the

East German who retired during a two-year suspension for a positive drugs test, and she dedicated her 1992 Olympic gold medal to Strauss. Hase also courted controversy when she was paid to withdraw from the 1994 world championship 200 metres freestyle final to make

way for a team-mate, Franziska van Almsick. For Great Britain, Sara Price set a national record of 1min 02.78sec in the morning heats and finished fifth in the final in a slightly slower time, while Adam Ruckwood finished fourth in the 200 metres backstroke.

Exit of Coates increases Tour's woes

THE troubles that have dogged the Women's Professional Golfers' European Tour have surfaced again with the announcement that Terry Coates, the chairman and chief executive, will resign next March (John Hopkins writes).

The official reason is that Coates will have done five years by then and wants to do something else.

There is no doubt, however, that Coates's departure is a result of the criticism he and Gill Wilson, the deputy chief executive, faced at the players' annual meeting in May. Wilson was so incensed by it that she resigned there and then. It is hardly credible that Coates, who is 66, has given up in order to develop his sports consultancy business, though this is given as the official reason.

"The Tour has not been functioning as it should," Pia Nilsson, the captain of the Europe Solheim Cup team, said. "I feel that everyone has to take stock and regroup."

Ballesteros under time pressure

FROM JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

SLOW play is a blight on professional golf in Europe and attempts to do something about it are to be applauded, but when one is made at the K Club here yesterday, the man at whom it was aimed, Severiano Ballesteros, did not appreciate the zealousness of the PGA European Tour officials involved.

After the first round of the Smurfit European Open, Ballesteros said that he, Padraig Harrington and Per-Ulrik Johansson, who were playing together, had been rushed by the tournament referees and such actions had cost them strokes. Harrington had a 70, two under par, Johansson a 68 and Ballesteros a 73.

This leaves them some way behind Colin Montgomerie, whose 64 was a course record and all the more meritorious in that it came after a long journey from Colorado on Monday — where he had defeated Phil Mickelson in a

made-for-TV match. But, since Harrington is on the cusp of the Ryder Cup team — he is eleventh in the table and Johansson is seventh — every stroke of theirs is important.

Ballesteros appreciates this more than most, for he is the Europe captain and he requested to play with these two men so that he could see how they coped under pressure. "Harrington is trying to make the Ryder Cup team," Ballesteros said angrily. "Johansson is not safe yet and the referees put me off. What the hell is going on? It looked as though they were hurrying us."

At a players' meeting in Sweden a few weeks ago, the main item on the agenda was slow play. The players want something to be done about it — not before time. Play on the European Tour is sluggish and Tom Lehman and Nick Price are just two visiting players who have commented on it recently. At Loch Lomond, the chorus of criticism for 5½-hour rounds was led by Montgomerie. "Slow play is very much top of the players'

agenda and thus it is top of our agenda," Andy McFee, the tournament director here, said.

Ballesteros and his group moved at an acceptable pace over their outward nine, but then slowed down. By the time they reached their tenth green, they had fallen 1½ holes behind the group in front and on their fourteenth hole, Ballesteros was warned for slow play, having taken too long to hit his tee shot on this



Ballesteros: unhappy

213-yard hole. The group lost a further ten minutes playing the last three holes.

"The referee warning us was rushing us," Ballesteros said. "I three-putted the par-three, Harrington missed a short putt and Johansson, too. They have to understand we had a hard time getting from green to tee and also there were a lot of people moving around down the fairways."

"I do understand that the pace of play is not always caused by slow play," McFee said. "I realise there were more people watching Seve. But every player has one responsibility — to stay close to the group in front — and they had not. Mark James's group went round in 4hr 25min, whereas Seve's group in the match behind took 4hr 38min."

Montgomerie added his support to McFee's actions. "I support any referee who asks anyone to speed up," the tournament leader, who is 17 under par for his last two rounds in Ireland, said.

Scores, page 45

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

YERBA BUENA

(a) A trailing perennial herb, *Satureja douglasii* (formerly *Micromeria chamissonis*) of the family Labiatae, native to western North America and bearing aromatic leaves and white or purplish flowers. From the Spanish for "good herb". John Steinbeck, *Tortilla Flat*, 1935: "Tea made from yerba buena will be good."

SUKEY

(b) A tea-kettle. The diminutive of Susan, Susanna, the female name. From the nursery rhyme *Polly put the kettle on*. "I'll just get the sukey going, and then we'll have a nice cup of tea."

SERAB

(c) A mirage. An adaptation of the Arabic *sarīb*, "Sons of blasting light perchance illusion! The glittering Serab which illumines his eye."

VOMITY

(d) Redolent of vomit. J. D. Salinger, *Catcher in the Rye*, 1951: "The cab I had was a real old one that smelled like someone'd just tossed his cookies in it. I always get these vomity kind of cabs if I go anywhere late at night."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Bxb4+! wins the white queen

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Leek put down solid foundations

AFTER the euphoria of their promotion, Leek Town received notice of the hard realities of life in the Vauxhall Conference when they played their first home match against Southport at Harrison Park on Tuesday night (Walter Gammie writes).

Reduced to ten men just before half-time when Dean Trotter, a new signing from Stalybridge Celtic, was sent off for retaliation, Leek, nonetheless, looked increasingly likely to hang on for a draw until they conceded a goal in stoppage time.

Peter Ward, the Leek manager, has already presided over substantial rebuilding of the team that won the UniBond League. To supply experience, he brought in Wayne Biggins, 35, released by Wigan Athletic, and Ray Walker, 33, given a free transfer after 14 years with Port Vale. The other recruits are younger, with Ray Newlands, 25, a goalkeeper released by Torquay United, the oldest of the batch.

With Rob Bailey arriving from Stoke City as the club's first full-time commercial

manager, £12,000 having been spent on improving the pitch and a new directors' lounge soon to be opened, activity has been furious all round. A crowd of 1,130 on Tuesday was a healthy improvement on the average last season of 450.

Ward, 49, an area manager for an insurance company, whose playing career was wrecked by injury when he was 24, is a realist. "We must be one of the smallest towns in the Conference, with a population of 19,000 or so," he said. "Our job can only be to consolidate our position."

Dentists and dilemmas



David Hyde Pierce is Niles Crane (C4)

Frasier

Channel 4, 9.00pm

An episode that will not be among anybody's favourites but still up to Frasier's standard. Tonight Chandler is on course for Heartbreak Hotel when girlfriend Janice (she of the hyena laugh) is caught kissing her former husband. Should he bow out and let them have another go at their marriage or should he selfishly cling on to the "movie love"? He has for her? Millions of viewers will have no trouble with that one if it means no more Janice. Meanwhile, Phoebe has a toothache which requires immediate dental attention. But she is convinced that whenever she goes to the dentist someone she knows dies. For her flossing is not so much dental hygiene as a matter of life or death. But if you've gotta go, you gotta go. Who will fall victim to Phoebe's curse this time?

Frasier

Channel 4, 10.00pm

It is not often that one is treated to the sight of Dr Niles Crane, eminent psychologist and opera buff, up to his elbows in the business end of a frozen turkey. He has to prepare Thanksgiving dinner while Frasier and his former wife Lilith fuss over their sons' future education. Competition for entry into the best school is cut-throat, so they will go to virtually any lengths to secure a place for him, even trying a spot of bribery and corruption if it helps them to get their way. Meanwhile, son Frederick is left to the tender mercies of his Uncle Niles and his grandfather Martin. Martin's efforts to turn the boy into a "normal kid" by playing catch with him go horribly wrong, prompting Niles to remark: "When will you learn, Dad, that all us Crane boys are good at catching is sarcastic nuance and the occasional virus."

Room 101

BBC2, 10.00pm

The presenter Nick Hancock describes this as "the most fun on TV since the Shopping Channel did a special on ceramic cats." And he should know. Over the weeks his guests have been consigning a succession of ghastly, kitsch or annoying things to the black hole of Room 101. The comedian Alan Davies is this week's guest in the Orwellian

nightmare and great value he is, too. Up for universal publishing are the sound of pish people talking, keeping birds in cages ("and then they put them near the window so they can see out..."), live television and Liverpool. Fortunately he makes them a lot funnier than this list promises. On the downside is Nick Hancock's tendency to be Mr Clever Clogs and outshine his guests. If he continues in this vein he may end up as a candidate for Room 101 himself.

King of the Hill

Channel 4, 10.30pm

Frank Hill is a man who knows how to deal with emotions. He swallows them, just like every red-blooded American male should. Not for him those Californian ways of his wife Peggy who believes in letting emotions run free. No stress. If mending something is all that is required. In Mike Judge's scathing satire of suburban Southern good boys this week, Hank comes face to face with that nightmare of all men, a crying teenage female. Leslie, his middle ward, has been dumped and she is making Hank's life hell. Despite his best advice, Hank is hearing, she won't stop crying. So Hank, as he would his muck, with about as much success. The jokes come from the familiarity of the characters which is probably why this is a bigger hit in America than here. But give it time. Frances Liss

RADIO CHOICE

Hype or Hypocrites?

Radio 4, 8.05pm

James Boyle, Controller of Radio 4, may have finished the main pieces in his recent scheduling puzzle but there is still plenty of time to detail to be dealt with, so I hope he will take on board the need to do something about the network's programme titles. The one above is on a new series which promises to be entertaining and stimulating, but why does the ordinary (busy) listener have to read a synopsis to discover what the programmes are about? They are actually about something important — the relationship between society and science — and the first discussion, chaired by Jer Nelson, asks whether ethics get in the way of scientific progress. Panelists are Steve Jones, Gerald Evan, Sheila McLean and Sara Maitland.

Radio 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 8.00 Simon Mayo 11.30 Radio 4 Live from Woodlands 12.30pm Newsweek 12.45 Jo Wiley 2.00pm Nick Campbell 4.00 Keith Greening 6.30pm News 6.30 Pete Tong — Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 8.00am Chris Jordan

Radio 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.50pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05pm John Durr 7.00pm Denis Quayle 8.00 The Best of Times 7.30pm Friday Night is Music Night 8.15 The Talk of the Nation 9.10pm 9.30pm The Band 10.00pm Tracy MacLean 12.00am Sam McGarry

Radio 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.30 The Magazine 12.00pm News 2.00pm Focus on Five 4.00pm Julian Warburton Nationwide 7.00pm News Extra 7.30pm 5.00pm Sport. Includes commentary on Manchester City v Tottenham. Review of the second day's play in the sixth Test: the Oval 10.00pm 5.00pm The Fringe 10.00pm News 11.00pm News 12.00am After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Richard Dwyer

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Wier 7.00pm Paul Ross 9.00pm Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Scott 4.00pm Peter Dinkley 7.00pm Anna Friel 10.00pm James White 1.00am Mike Dolan

Radio 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore, includes John Stanley (Organ Concerto No 4 in C minor), Vaughan Williams (The Lark Ascending), 8.00 Morning Collection, with Corina Venz, includes Mozart (Serenade in G, K525, Eine Kleine Nachtmusik), Dvorak (Cello Concerto), 10.00 News, 10.10pm News, 10.20pm News, 10.30pm News, 10.40pm News, 10.50pm News, 11.00pm News, 11.10pm News, 11.20pm News, 11.30pm News, 11.40pm News, 11.50pm News, 12.00am News, 12.10am News, 12.20am News, 12.30am News, 12.40am News, 12.50am News, 1.00am News, 1.10am News, 1.20am News, 1.30am News, 1.40am News, 1.50am News, 2.00am News, 2.10am News, 2.20am News, 2.30am News, 2.40am News, 2.50am News, 3.00am News, 3.10am News, 3.20am News, 3.30am News, 3.40am News, 3.50am News, 4.00am News, 4.10am News, 4.20am News, 4.30am News, 4.40am News, 4.50am News, 5.00am News, 5.10am News, 5.20am News, 5.30am News, 5.40am News, 5.50am News, 6.00am News, 6.10am News, 6.20am News, 6.30am News, 6.40am News, 6.50am News, 7.00am News, 7.10am 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Not so much a broadside as a damp squib

Milton's *Paradise Lost* should come with a warning on the cover: use sparingly. On Wednesday night, Inspector Morse got it about right with a couple of lines at the end of two hours of welcome repeat: "The infernal serpent; he it was, whose guile, stirred up with envy and revenge, deceived the mother of mankind." With that, it was off for a couple of celebratory pints with Sergeant Lewis. "Job done, Lewis."

But last night, Marc Karlin served up great goblets of the stuff in *Files of Fire: The Serpent* (Channel 4) as he had a decidedly different go at this *celebratory* employer. Rupert Murdoch, played by Nicholas Farrell, is a few taken autobiographical details were slotted in by a disembodied narrator who was also his nephew — architect, married, twins, fond of astronomy

there is nothing wrong with the idea in general. It was the execution that was depressing. You deserved better — you really did. You, little minority you, mean, Dennis Potter didn't like Murdoch either, but think what fun his attack might have been: old songs, a bit of dancing and oodles of gratuitous nudity. Apart from the appearance of a rather fed-up page three girl and a lot of old Milton, Karlin's version was nothing like that.

Indeed, it was nothing like anything you've seen on television recently. That could have been a good thing or it could have been an old-fashioned, deeply pretentious thing — I leave the final choice to you. Our hero, such as he was, was Michael Deakin, played by Nicholas Farrell. A few taken autobiographical details were slotted in by a disembodied narrator who was also his nephew — architect, married, twins, fond of astronomy

— but they weren't important. What allegedly was important was that Deakin fell asleep on a broken-down train and spent the rest of the play dreaming and listening to another disembodied voice, who purported to be the Voice of Reason. Seemed more Bunyan than Milton, but that's probably not important either.

So what was, you ask? Well... Deakin was supposed to be a cross with Murdoch because football wasn't on terrestrial television any more. However, what he actually spent most time pining up and down in front of a blue screen and whining to Fiona Shaw's Voice of Reason about was — wait for it, wait for it — the significance of the silence which greeted Murdoch's speech to the Edinburgh Television Festival in 1992.

Suddenly, as Murdoch was morphed into Satan and Kelvin MacKenzie into a super-saraway serpent, the scales dropped from my eyes. I'd forgotten the first law of television and so, apparently, had Karlin. For the benefit of us and anybody who might be making the annual pilgrimage north at the moment, the first law clearly states: "Nothing that seems like a great idea in the bar of the George Hotel in Edinburgh during the Television Festival actually is."

More Voltaire perhaps than Milton, but now his being pretentious? Time to move on. But not far. For just as there seemed little new about Murdoch-bashing, we didn't exactly seem to be breaking new ground in Nightmares to the Gods (BBC2). But then, as the breaking of very old ground was our subject, perhaps this was appropriate.

I can't remember when I last gave the Nazca Desert much thought, but there was something strangely enjoyable about how it all came back: straight lines in the Peruvian desert, huge animals only visible from the air. Erich Von Daniken. Erich Von Daniken? This was too good to be true.

On first meeting, Dr Tony Spawforth was perfect casting, an aspiring Indiana Jones with a breathless, extensible delivery that urged you to believe everything he said. Sadly, however, I fell at the first hurdle when he invited us to

believe that he had mounted a special expedition to the Nazca. He was there all right, and so were other scientists, but there was no sense of that round-the-camp-fire camaraderie, nor much in the way of scientific breakthrough. Still, the cobbling together was first-class and the section that dealt in all seriousness, with "shamanic nasal discharges" will stay in the memory for a long time. Mind you, if they must go around snorting cactus, what do they expect? Clear sinuses?

Von Daniken's extraterrestrial explanation was diplomatically dismissed as "an option awaiting evidence". In its place, Spawforth substituted a plausible alternative, although it has to be said you could drive the *Starship Enterprise* through some of the gaps in the evidence.

His three-fold conclusion was that all the Nazca geoglyphs were built by an ancient but definitely terrestrial Nazca people over a thousand-year period; that the animal figures owed a lot to the custom of snuffing shamans flying around while under the influence of the San Pedro cactus; and that the geometric trapezoids (Von Daniken's runways) were effectively part of a huge outdoor temple built — during a 40-year drought — to bring rain to the desert. That just left the funny shaped skulls with holes in them, but the ancient art of skull-binding, together with a bit of do-it-yourself reapplying, soon sorted that out.

A spot of do-it-yourself reapplying as one charts the sorry progress of *Pilgrims' Rest* (BBC1), where my initial enthusiasm is all but spent. It has slipped further and further into tired stereotype and the chances of comic paradise being found — let alone regained — are looking decidedly slim.

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 83 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 83 are: picture, 10.2075 GHz; sound, 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.

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RACING 43

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SPORT

Shambolic England save their worst for last as Australia take control in final Test

Beginning of the end for Atherton

FRIDAY AUGUST 22 1997

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE OVAL (first day of five: England won 105): Australia, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 103 runs behind England

ALL THE fine words and good intentions came to nothing. When the crying need was to restore the spirits of the nation and protect the position of their captain, England instead raised a limp white flag. Their opening-day efforts at the Oval were the most abject of the summer and it will now require an act of great faith or bravado for Michael Atherton to remain in command beyond this match.

When Atherton won the toss for the first time in six Tests, England had the opportunity to follow the dictates of their coaching staff by batting for two days. Not for the first time, however, two sessions were their limit and they were dismissed below 200 for the fourth time in five first innings.

The difference this time was that only a very generous assessment could offer much in the way of mitigation. True,

this was not an archetypal Oval pitch — the bounce was capricious and the ball turned from the outset — and McGrath, who took seven for 76, bowled uncommonly well. But the England batting was weakly, woefully inadequate.

Within the most depressing four hours of their late-summer decline were encapsulated all the problems confronting England — neurotic shot selection, fatally flawed techniques and inability to come to terms with the mental requirements of five-day cricket. Of the seven specialist batsmen, only two did not contribute to their own downfall. It was wretchedly submissive cricket. None of this is new; indeed, it is in constant repetition that it perplexes. The malaise, it appears, is inoperable.

Only on Wednesday, Graham Gooch, a selector and part-time net bowler, had been bemoaning England's inconsistencies and reflecting that he was saying precisely the same things four years ago, when the last home Ashes series brought his own resignation as captain. Atherton,

his successor, won the corresponding game at the Oval that year in dramatic fashion. Those of us who remain convinced that he is the right man to lead the team to the West Indies this winter were hopeful of something similar here. It is a forlorn hope now.

Although Philip Tufnell aroused some patriotic optimism among another capacity crowd by taking two wickets

James on song 44
Sussex struggle 44
Simon Barnes 45

in his first seven balls of this series. Australia reached the close enviously placed. The help for the spin bowlers is unlikely to disappear and, in Shane Warne, they have the probable match-winner.

With Butcher restored as his partner, Atherton had set off confidently enough to support the early spread-betting predictions that England would make close to 400. McGrath had other ideas and in two spells of high quality, he took

his tally for the series to 36 wickets. Only three Australians in Ashes history have taken more.

David Lloyd, the England coach, has been exhorting his own bowlers to be more like McGrath; now he has further evidence to set before them. The most extreme of motivators, however, would hardly have dared suggest to McGrath that he would take seven wickets before tea, even on a day when the heavy atmosphere promoted movement. He needed no such assistance to remove Butcher, who dragged on an attempted pull in the fifth over, but produced a ball that darted back to claim Atherton for the seventh time in ten innings.

Hussain and Stewart, somehow, negotiated the rest of the session. Even they may not know how, for air shots, edges and sundry leg-before appeals punctuated their progress. Warne, summoned for the tenth over, discovered turn immediately, and when McGrath took a break, Kasproutz bowled a worthy and unlucky spell.

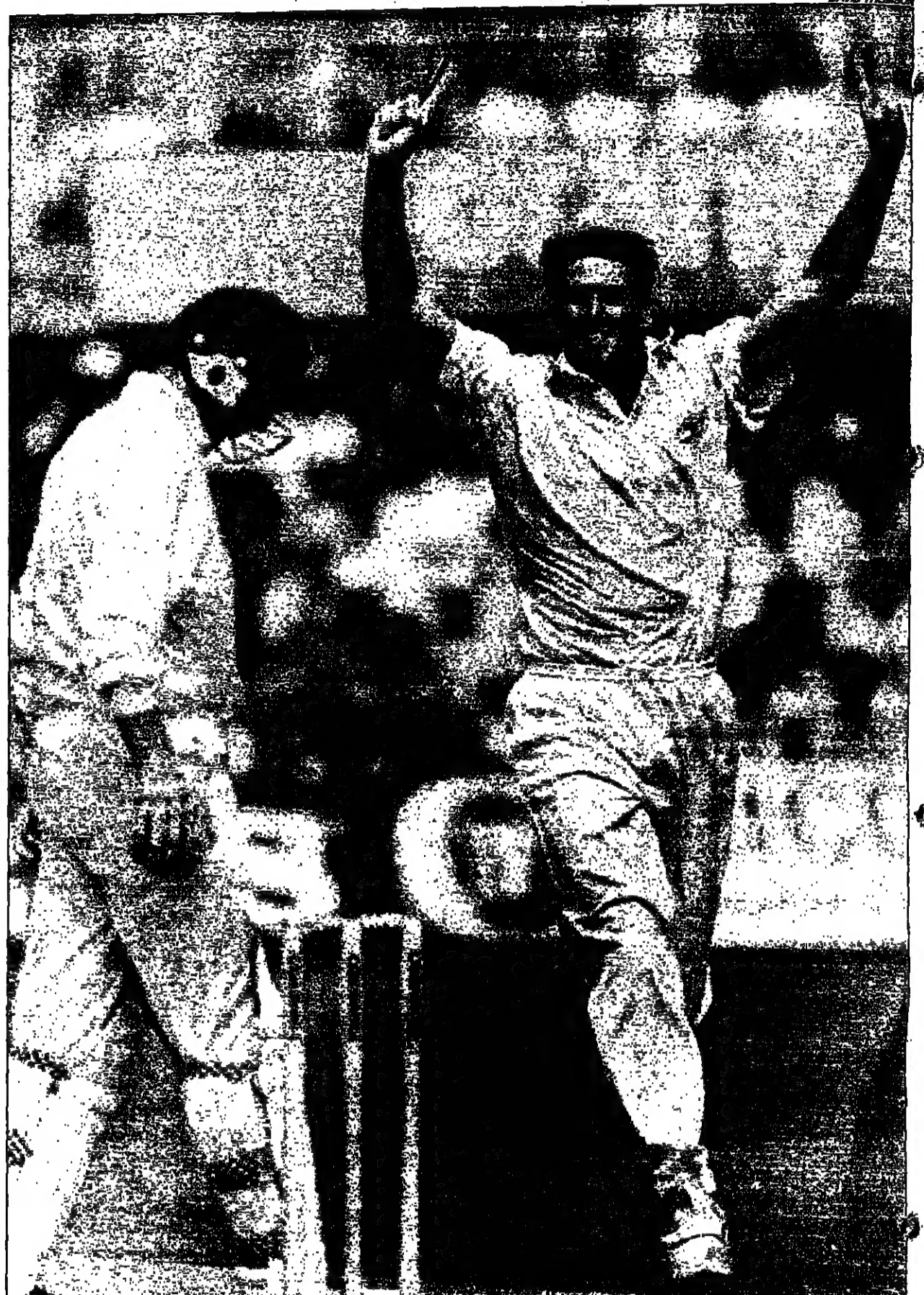
If one over could indicate the wreckage to come, it was the penultimate one before lunch, bowled by the debutant, Shaun Young. Three balls were loose, wide and demanding to be ignored: Hussain thrashed wildly at them all.

Stewart went to McGrath's first ball of the afternoon, struck on his crease and leg before to end the one substantial stand of the innings. When, at 128, Hussain drove off-balance to mid-on, the domino effect took charge. In five overs, while four runs were added, Thorpe was bowled behind his legs, Holloake was bowled shouldering arms to Warne and Ramprakash spooned a simple catch to short leg.

Ramprakash, especially, presented a sad sight as he trudged back, head low in acknowledgement of one more missed opportunity. He had lasted eight balls and managed to lower his already puny Test average. Although Caddick and Martin lifted the gloom — each hitting a six amid some merry defiance — the biggest cheer from the home crowd acclaimed the appearance of Malcolm, who was leg-before first ball.

He was no more impressive with the ball. In fact, he was dreadful and, at first, Martin was little better. After eight overs, Australia had rushed to 38 and Atherton withdrew his front-line attack.

Tufnell may no longer be the artful dodger who



Atherton hangs his head after being dismissed by McGrath, who celebrates the second of his seven wickets yesterday

hypnotised West Indies here in 1991, but he seemed to take instantly to the place. Elliott was bowled, driving airily at one that turned out of the footmarks, and Taylor was

caught at short leg. Tufnell may yet take a bagful of wickets here, but he must take them quickly and cheaply to protect England's dignity and to preserve their captain.

SCOREBOARD FROM THE OVAL

England won 105	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16 (Atherton 7, 2-24 (Stewart 4), 3-37 (Hussain 31), 4-128 (Thorpe 27), 5-131 (Ramprakash 3), 6-132 (Ramprakash 4), 7-132 (Caddick 5), 8-158 (Caddick 6), 9-175 (Caddick 21).	S R Waugh, R T Ponting, H A Healy, S Waugh, S K Warne, M S Kasproutz and G D McGrath to bat.
ENGLAND: First Innings		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48 (Taylor 35), 2-54 (Stewart 2).
M A Butcher to McGrath (22m, 24 balls)		
"M A Atherton c Healy b McGrath (11m, 17 balls)		
1A Stewart bow b McGrath (10m, 17 balls, 4 runs)		
N Hussain c Elliott b McGrath (13m, 14 balls, 4 runs)		
G P Thorpe b McGrath (16m, 36 balls, 3 runs)		
M R Ramprakash c Stewart b McGrath (4m, 1 ball)		
A J Holloake b Warne (19m, 8 balls)		
A C Caddick not out (20m, 33 balls, 1 run, 4 fours)		
P J Martin b McGrath (20m, 19 balls, 1 six, 1 four)		
P C R Tufnell c Stewart b Warne (20m, 20 balls)		
D E Malcolm b Kasproutz (20m, 1 ball)		
Extras (b 2 to 6, nb 10) 18		
Total (56.4 overs, 240m) 180		

Total (12 wks, 25.1 overs, 103m) 77

McGrath posts challenge to Lillee and Alderman

Hal the conquering hero. When all is said and done about the death-wish fulfilment of the England batting, you have to give Glenn McGrath nine out of ten. He compressed his life story as a fast bowler into two shattering sessions, revealing Australian cricket at its most resolute and exposing the flabbiness that masquerades as defiance in the English game.

It was a high-class performance of bowling, fast, straight and relentless, by a man whose fingerprints are all over this series. He has now taken 36 wickets this summer at less than 19 a time. Only the notable West Australian firm of Lillee and Alderman have been more successful in a series over here and they are within his sights when he bowls later in the match.

Why not a full ten? Well, he must be deducted one mark for his childish abuse of the tailenders and, if he is fair-

Michael Henderson sees a relentless fast bowler take a decisive step into new territory

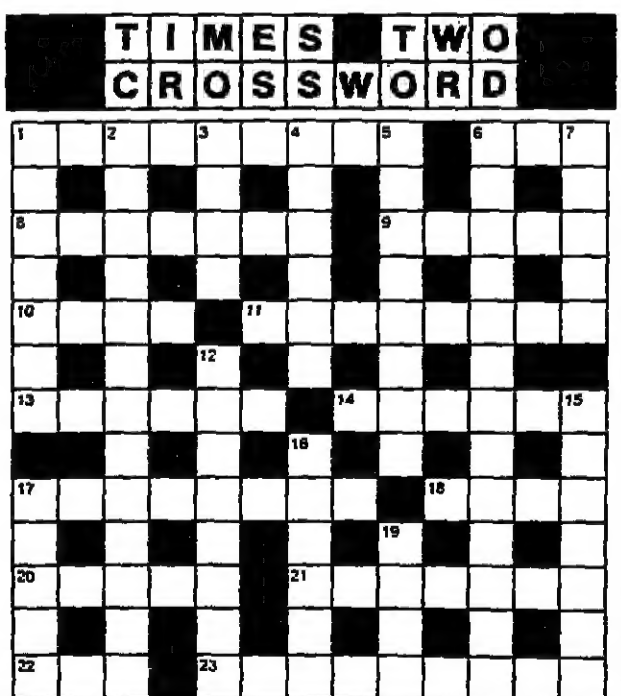
minded, he will admit it made an unedifying spectacle. Other than that it was a superb performance, yet another one. England have nobody within a thousand miles of him, and when Devon Malcolm served up tripe at tuppence a pound after tea, on what was apparently the same pitch, it was hard to keep a straight face. McGrath has everything except absolute pace, which is given to few. To batsmen who seek to break him, and England have discussed at some length how best to take him on, he must be a real pest, as he nags away at that off-stump line. Like Lillee before him, he is a true leader of the attack, a champion. Bear in mind the work he

has been asked to do in the past 18 months. He has played in all 15 Tests Australia have played since they lost the World Cup final, sharing the new ball with four others — England have employed 12 different pairings in the same time. Now, at the end of Australia's third major undertaking in ten months, and after losing the toss on a good pitch, he ran through England's batting by dismissing each of the top six.

There is always a stage at which the great bowler takes that decisive final step up from being a very good one, and McGrath appears to have crossed the frontier. His Test record shows 155 wickets in 34 Tests, and they are not just any old wickets, either. Most of them are golden apples, like Lara, whose spirit he has broken in two series, and Atherton, who has fallen to him seven times this year.

There was a time when England produced bowlers of McGrath's kind. In fact, he was dreadful and, at first, Martin was little better. After eight overs, Australia had rushed to 38 and Atherton withdrew his front-line attack. Tufnell may no longer be the artful dodger who

hypnotised West Indies here in 1991, but he seemed to take instantly to the place. Elliott was bowled, driving airily at one that turned out of the footmarks, and Taylor was caught at short leg. Tufnell may yet take a bagful of wickets here, but he must take them quickly and cheaply to protect England's dignity and to preserve their captain.



No 1179

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Latin Greek (civilisation) (9) | 1 A dupe breeze on water (4-3) |
| 6 Kanga's child (Pooch) (3) | 2 Roughly speaking (5,1,7) |
| 8 Enormous; it sank (7) | 3 George —, Chopin's lover (4) |
| 9 Cultivated soil (5) | 4 Bird (in wrong nest) (6) |
| 10 Trim, peel (4) | 5 Able to read and write (8) |
| 11 Shocking; unpleasant (8) | 6 Arne patriotic song (4,9) |
| 13 Borne on breeze (6) | 7 Brownish-yellow earth (5) |
| 14 Demanding; precise (6) | 12 Answer (8) |
| 17 Uphill stone-roller (GK myth) (8) | 13 Idly play with (knob, thumb) (7) |
| 18 Epiphany visitors (4) | 16 Blunder (6) |
| 20 Strange; foreigner (5) | 17 Bog; overwhelm (5) |
| 21 Smiled widely; nastily (7) | 19 Closed hand (4) |
| 22 Enclosure; mate of coo (3) | |
| 23 Finally result (in) (9) | |

The solution to 1178 will be published Wednesday, August 27

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